



Challenging Perceptions: Persepolis Beyond the American Lens

Guide for Curriculum Unit 13.01.10, published September 2013

by Amanda Targgart

"That is why I wanted people in other countries to read *Persepolis*, to see that I grew up just as other children do." - Marjane Satrapi ¹

For this unit, students will examine the ways their eyes see other cultures, in particular, Middle Eastern culture. The graphic-novel-memoir *Persepolis* will be the central text. This unit will encourage students to question their own perceptions and will also allow them to recognize the ways in which different countries and cultures are seen from different points of view. Many of my students are limited in their exposure to other cultures. Many of them rarely leave the city of Chicago. Most of their knowledge of about other countries and cultures comes from the Internet, books, and television; the messages they receive through these mediums, however, are often not critically analyzed in the classroom. In order to analyze cultures outside the United States, students must first reflect on their own values, reflect on how those values were formed, and then question them. The goal for this unit is for students to discover a wider global lens by learning about the Middle East and analyzing their own perceptions. This goal will be achieved through reading the story *Persepolis*.

(Developed for English I, grade 9; recommended for High School English Class, grades 9-10)

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use