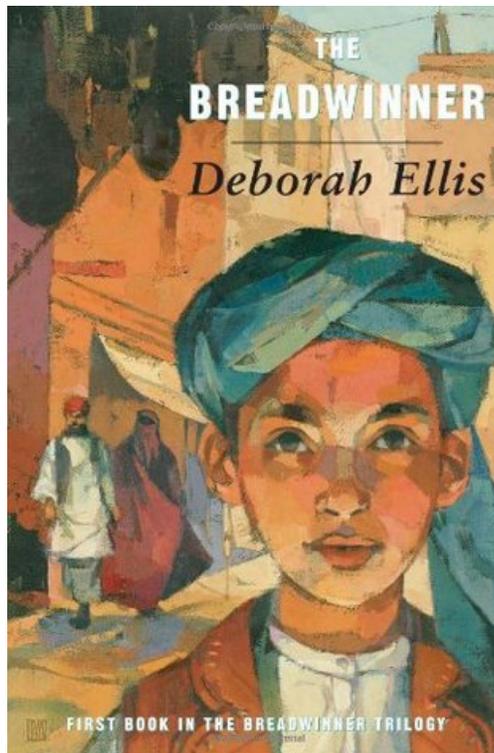




Rising 6th-grade
The Breadwinner Summer Reading Assignment



Name _____

** Complete this packet in its entirety and bring it with you on the first day of school to turn in for a grade in English class. Be prepared to discuss the book in class!**

Chapter 1

1. What characters do you meet in this chapter? Write their names with some notes about each of them.

Name	Notes/description

2. How has life changed for Parvana's family in ten years?

3. *Text-to-Self Connection*: How long has it been since the mother and children, except for Parvana, have been outside the house? Imagine you were not allowed to leave your home. How do you think you would cope?

4. What do you learn about the Taliban in this chapter?

Chapter 2

1. What did the soldiers do to the family? Where do you think they have taken the father?

2. Why do you think the books are so important to the family? What do they represent?

3. Draw a sketch of the room where the family lives and its contents.



4. What happened to Hossain, the oldest brother?

5. When you are reading, what techniques do you use to figure out a word you don't know? How does the author give clues to a word's meaning (e.g., how does "stretched out on a toshak" help a reader understand what a "toshak" is)?

Chapter 3

1. Why did the Taliban order all windows to be painted over with black paint?

2. *Text-to-Self Connection:* What emotions did you feel as you were reading this chapter? What caused them?

3. What character strengths has Parvana shown in the novel so far?

Chapter 4

1. What has happened to the mother?

2. How do Parvana and Nooria differ on how they should handle their mother?

3. *Text-to-Self Connection:* "Everybody leans on everybody in this family" (page 18). What does Parvana mean by this? Would you say this is true in your own family? How could you be a better support for family and/or friends?

Chapter 5

1. What are your first impressions of Mrs. Weera? Include two things she says or does that give you a strong sense of her character.

2. Parvana is responsible for bringing in water for the family. Why is it such an important and tiring job? Why must the water be boiled before they can drink it?

3. A reference to an Afghan Women's Union appears on page 57. What kind of services and support do you think this organization would offer?

Chapter 6

1. What is the plan that Mrs. Weera thought of? How well did it work on the first day?
2. How does Parvana feel when she is out in the market as a boy?
3. The author mentions Parvana's special red shalwar kameez on page 69, already described on page 24. Why is it important to Parvana? (As you read, watch for further mentions of it and think about what it might symbolize.)

Chapter 7

1. What is Parvana's job? How does she feel about it?
2. Why do you think the author included the scene with Parvana reading the letter for the Talib?
3. *Text-to-Self Connection:* Parvana must sell her special shalwar kameez. How would you feel if you were forced to sell something that was important to you?

Chapter 8

1. How does the family's life change when Mrs. Weera moves in?

2. *Text-to-Self Connection:* Nooria says that she had forgotten how good the sun feels on her face. Maryam has to be helped to walk down the stairs. If you were forced to stay indoors, what would you miss most about being outside? Why is it unhealthy to be indoors for so long?

3. Why do you think the woman in the window is throwing small items down to Parvana?

4. What do you predict will happen when the "tea boy" recognizes Parvana?

Chapter 9

1. How are Parvana's and Shauzia's lives similar? How are they different?

2. What two plans do Mrs. Weera and the mother have? Why are the plans dangerous?

Chapter 10

1. *Text-to-Self Connection*: What is the job the girls do? Do you think you would be able to do it? What do you think makes them able to do it?

2. “Kabul has more land mines than flowers,” the father used to say (page 109). Share what you know about land mines.

3. The girls say that they must remember the experience of bone-digging when they are rich old ladies drinking tea together. Do you think that vision of their future will come true? Why do you think that?

Chapter 11

1. Why did Parvana end up telling her family about the bone-digging even though she had said she wouldn't?

2. How did digging bones lead to the girls' new job?

3. How is the relationship between Parvana and Nooria changing?

4. What happens at the soccer stadium? Why do you think the author chooses to include scenes like this one and the scene about the bone-digging?

Chapter 12

1. What is Shauzia's dream? What is your opinion of her wanting to leave?
2. Why did Parvana's parents disagree about leaving Afghanistan?
3. What does Parvana want her life to be like? Are you surprised by what she wants?
4. Pages 131–32 describe areas in Afghanistan outside of Kabul. Locate the areas on the map. How do the descriptions differ from those of Kabul? Why is it valuable for Parvana to talk to the people from these outside areas?
5. What do we learn about the reasons for the Window Woman's little gifts to Parvana?

Chapter 13

1. How is Nooria's life going to change? How does she feel about it?
2. *Text-to-Self Connection:* Parvana feels both relieved and sulky about not going to Mazar-e-Sharif. Describe a time you have felt that kind of mixed emotion.

Chapter 14

1. What do we learn about Parvana's character from her actions toward Homa, the woman she finds?

2. Why was getting back to Parvana's house so dangerous?

3. *Text-to-Self Connection*: What news does Homa report to Parvana and Mrs. Weera? How do their responses to the news differ? How do you think you would have responded?

4. What do you predict has happened to Parvana's family?

5. Had you predicted that the father would return? Why or why not?

Chapter 15

1. What do Parvana and Shauzia say they are working toward? Why are their plans different?
2. What do you know about refugee camps and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs)? What do you think the camps are like?
3. How does Parvana say goodbye to the Window Woman? What has their interaction meant to both Parvana and the woman?
4. How does the author give a sense of hope in this chapter?
5. What do Parvana and Shauzia plan to do in twenty years? Do you think this plan will come true? Explain your reasoning.

End of Novel Task

Now that you have finished the novel, select one of these tasks to reflection on the book and show your understanding. The tasks are arranged in order of challenge. Check which one you select and complete the task on a blank sheet of paper. Make sure you put your name on it!

Beginning

_____ Create a Venn diagram or a T-chart to compare and contrast Parvana and her family's life before and after the Taliban took over Kabul.

_____ Create a Venn diagram or a T-chart to compare and contrast your own life with Parvana's.

_____ Make a list of the restrictions the Taliban placed on women with the page number for each.

Intermediate

_____ Read Mrs. Weera's words (page 116): "These are unusual times. They call for ordinary people to do unusual things just to get by." Draw or paint a scene or image from the novel that you think best illustrates this idea. Include a title for your artwork and an artist's note about why you picked it as your example.

_____ Create a "Malali" award to give to Parvana for her courage. Sketch what the award looks like (e.g., medal, plaque, trophy, or statue). It should represent the Malali story in some way. Also write a brief speech describing something Parvana did that you found particularly courageous to be worthy of the award.

_____ Research aid organizations that provide support to Afghan citizens, including organizations created by Afghans themselves. Create a brochure about the organization(s) to report your findings.

Advanced

_____ Flowers are used as symbols in the book. Create a piece of artwork (e.g., painting, sculpture, collage, or photograph) that reflects this symbol and what it represents in *The Breadwinner*. Write an artist's note explaining the symbolism and your connections.

_____ Consider how the author infuses the novel with some humor, despite the grimness of the themes. Look for examples of humor in the novel and then write a paragraph about these examples to discuss how the author has created humor.

_____ Study the relationship between Parvana and Nooria and trace how it changes during the novel. Present your findings in the form of diary entries for both sisters or an exchange of letters between them.