PERSEPOLIS

THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD
The 1979 Iranian Revolution marked by mass protests and civil disobedience, followed by political and social upheaval.
The 1979 Iranian Revolution led to the fleeing and overthrowing of the autocratic American-backed Shah.
The Shah had been the king of Iran after inheriting the title from his father.
The Shah was particularly known for:

- his attempts at modernizing the country
- his land-reform policies,
- and his reliance on a brutal secret police to realize his goals.
Following the Revolution

- a nationwide referendum led to the rise of the Islamic Republic

- ... and the beginning of the Iraq-Iran War
Iraq-Iran War

In 1980, Iraq attacked Iran, leading to an eight-year long war which left hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers dead.
• born in Rasht, Iran
• grew up going to French language schools in Tehran
Her family was highly-educated and modern in its outlook (which proved difficult post-Revolution after the establishment of a repressively conservative Islamic Republic).
● as a teen (in 1984) was sent by her family to a French school in Vienna,
● returned to Iran after the end of the Iran-Iraq War
● attended a masters program in the School of Fine Arts in Tehran Islamic Azad University until 1994
Marjane Satrapi

- got married, divorced within three years
- after graduating, worked as an illustrator for an economics magazine
- later returned to Europe and attended school in Strasbourg to study Decorative Arts
Written: 1999, France
Published: 2000 in French, 2003 in English
Genre: Graphic Memoir
Setting: Mostly Tehran
Climax: a scene of violence (no spoilers)
Antagonist: the Iranian regime
Point of View: first-person (autobiography)
Major Thematic Motifs Include ...

- RELIGION, REPRESSSION, & MODERNITY
- NATIONALISM, HEROISM, & MARTYRDOM
- VIOLENCE, FORGIVENESS, & JUSTICE
- CHILDREN, WAR, & GROWING UP
- THE PERSONAL VS. THE POLITICAL
- GENDER
Symbols to Look Out For ... 

- veil
- bread swan
- gold-painted plastic key
How to Cite a Graphic Novel...

Citation format is:
(chapter.page.panel).

So ... chapter 2, page 7, panel 4 would be (II.7.4).

And ... chapter 11, page 12, panels 3-6 would be (XI.12.3-6).
Theme Log Directions

After reading a few chapters of *Persepolis*, select *any two* of the thematic motifs from these notes (e.g. *The Personal vs. The Political & Nationalism, Heroism, & Martyrdom*) and track them through the book’s first ten chapters.

Ten entries are due next class.