

## PERSEPOLIS DAY 7 IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

### DAY 7: IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

**Do Now:** American Hostage Crisis in Iran Article from American view point

**Objective:** Determine the cause and effect of events in the novel using inferences from the text combined with understanding of historical context.

**Activity:** View Argo film and complete film guide: Understand view point of situation from both America and Iran

**(Absent students refer to uploaded clip watched in class and complete film guide)**

**GRASPS** Assign Newspaper Article (assignment in day 7)

**Homework:** The “F-14’s” and “The Jewels”

## PERSEPOLIS DAY 7 IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOW:

After reading the American Hostage Crisis in Iran article from an American perspective and reading Persepolis from an Iranian perspective, explain how this article would have been written differently if the event were reported in Iran.

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## ARGO & PERSEPOLIS

### Background:

This film, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2012, depicts the rescue of six Americans who escaped the 444-Day Iran Hostage Crisis of 1980-1981 (In Iran, it's called "The Conquest of the American Spy Den"). This event, as well as the setting, is depicted in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*; thus, we will be analyzing the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment

**To Begin:** Turn to P. 72 ("The Trip") and read about how the hostage situation is depicted. What does the Iranian newspaper call the American Embassy? \_\_\_\_\_. As you watch, think about how perspective of a situation changes depending on who is telling the story. The Americans in the Pentagon refer to the Iranian word choice ("Den of Espionage"... espionage means "spies") as seeming like what kind of movie? \_\_\_\_\_. What does this tell us about the difference of perspective?

### Brief Iranian History explained by film at beginning

- 2500 years of ruling by kings known as Shahs
- In 1950, a democratically elected Mohammad Mosaddegh, who nationalized the oil industry.
- In 1953, however, Great Britain (Prime Minister Winston Churchill) and the United States (President Eisenhower) helped organize a *coup d'état*, which is a sudden and illegal seizure/overthrow of a government. They didn't want Iran to control their most valuable asset of oil, so they helped a military commander -- Mohammed Reza Pahlavi -- gain power. This manipulation of Reza and organization of the coup is depicted on p. 20-21 of *Persepolis*.
- (Note: can you see why there are anti-U.S. sentiments in Iran in 1980 and even today?)
- Reza was in power from 1953 until 1979. He was known for his opulence (ostentatiously rich and lavish), his ruthless internal police (terror and torture), and his westernization of Iran.
- The Islamic Revolution took place in 1979, and Ayatollah Khomeini took control as the Iran Supreme Leader; the revolution descended into torture, death squads, score-settling, and chaos.
- The Shah was given asylum (protection to a refugee from a different country) in the U.S. to undergo cancer treatments.
- (Note: why would the U.S. give him asylum?)
- Iranian people stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iran demanding that the Shah be returned to Iran for trial and to be hanged.

### Film Viewing Notes

<b>Authorial choices about presenting context/ backstory:</b> Why do you think the filmmaker, like Satrapi, presents the backstory of Iran?	
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## PERSEPOLIS DAY 7 IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

<b>Filmmaking Techniques:</b> How does the filmmaker create a sense of suspense and danger with his choices? Give several examples.	
<b>Comparison of same subject:</b> Compare your experience reading <i>Persepolis</i> and watching <i>Argo</i> , in terms of depiction of the same setting. How are the presentations similar/different? What is emphasized or absent in each treatment?	
<b>Perspective:</b> Do you think the film attempts to present both western and Iranian viewpoints? Why or why not?	
<b>Showing Intellectual Curiosity:</b> Other things you found interesting or have questions about regarding the film.	