

Chapter 14 - The Wine

1. Marjane's family enjoys having parties and drinking, what precautions do they take, and why do they continue despite the danger of being found out? Why do people seek to keep their regular routines even in dangerous times?

Marjane's family puts masking tape to hide their parties, because Timoosh's dad got caught partying. They continue despite the danger of getting found out because to them it would not be psychologically bearable. Some people seek to keep their regular routines because it can be something that they find mental comfort in.

Chapter 15 - The Cigarette

2. What understanding does Marjane come to about the war? Why could it have been avoided? In the last frame, she announces that "with this first cigarette, I kissed childhood goodbye." Do you believe her? What does it take to go from being a child to an adult?

Marjane comes to understand that some of the news is fake. The war could have been avoided if they settled on peace, but they didn't. I think she did become an adult. It is natural for people to basically grow up at once. Growing up is something you yourself will only know, your mindset will change and you will feel the weight of life. I think it's that moment where you grow up and become an adult.

Chapter 16 - The Passport

3. Why is the Iranian government so strict about letting people out of the country, even if they are gravely ill like uncle Taher? Why is it ironic that his passport finally arrives on the day of his funeral?

They want to maintain the population, especially with the war going on. It is ironic that his passport arrives on his death because then he would have been free to leave the country, but instead he leaves the world.

Chapter 17 - Kim Wilde

4. Why does American pop culture have such an influence on Marjane and kids her age? Why are she and her family willing to take such risks to have tapes, posters and jean jackets?

American pop culture has an influence on Marjane and kids her age because from the beginning, we can see that Marjane and kids her age were very rebellious, especially when it came to clothing. She and her family are willing to take the risk because it can be something they can find mental comfort.

Chapter 18 - The Shabbat

5. Why does Marjane's family decide to stay in Tehran, despite the constant threat of bombing? How does the bombing on her street affect Marjane? Have you ever come home to a major crisis or disaster like she did? How did it change you?

Marjane's family decides to stay in Tehran because the future for them was linked to Marjane's french education. This changed Marjane to have a tougher mentality, she could not be scared anymore. I've never been across any major crisis/disaster.

Chapter 19 - The Dowry

6. Marjane is outspoken at all times, how does this hurt her, and what decision does it lead her parents to make?

This hurts her because what she says at school may harm the family and possibly get them locked up or worse. Her parents want her to go to Austria.

7. What advice does Marjane's grandmother give her the night before she leaves? How do you think Marjane might use this advice once she is in Austria?

She says, "In life, you'll meet a lot of jerks. If they hurt you, tell yourself that it's because they're stupid, that will help keep you from reacting to their cruelty. Because there is nothing worse than bitterness and vengeance... Always keep your dignity and be true to yourself." This can foreshadow that she may be bullied and insulted in Austria.