

TSSMTM
Creating VCE Success

SAMPLE

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
Persepolis

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AUTHOR NOTES

Marjane (known as Marji as a child) Satrapi was born in Iran into a middle-class family in the city of Tehran. Her parents were considered by many to be quite liberal and politically minded. They were dismayed, and worried, by the fundamentalists who took power when the Iranian Revolution took place in 1979. Growing up, Marjane was not kept away from the brutalities of the various regimes and she the arrest, persecution and murder of many family, friends and neighbours. As a young teenage girl Marjane began acting out, getting into trouble with authority figures for breaking various rules, amongst them the modesty codes and listening to music. Because of this behaviour and her expulsion from school her parents arranged for her to study abroad in Vienna, Austria. She stayed in Vienna during her high school years, still managing to get in trouble and eventually lived on the streets for two months. After an almost deadly bout of pneumonia she returned home to Iran where she eventually studied visual communication and earned her master's degree. It was during this time she met her first husband and was married by the age of 21. They were divorced a few years later. She ultimately moved to France where she is married to a Swedish national. Her award winning graphic novels 'Persepolis I and II' were turned into a film in 2007.

Satrapi prefers the term "comic books" to "graphic novels." "People are so afraid to say the word 'comic'," she told the *Guardian* newspaper in 2011. "It makes you think of a grown man with pimples, a ponytail and a big belly. Change it to 'graphic novel' and that disappears. No: it's all comics."¹

Other Texts

She has also written and published in English the following:

- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*. (2003)
- *Persepolis: The Story of a Return*. New York: Pantheon Books. (2004)
- *The Complete Persepolis*. (2007)
- *Embroideries* (2005)
- *Chicken with Plums* (2006)
- *Monsters Are Afraid of the Moon* (2006)
- *The Sigh* (2011)

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjane_Satrapi