

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Parvana's Journey, Day 1



Key Paragraph

“‘You must leave now,’ the girl said once they were outside. ‘I heard the old men talking. They are going to turn you over to the Taliban. Some soldiers are coming by here any day, and the men think the Taliban will pay them money for you’”

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Parvana and **write a letter to your mother and siblings informing them of Father's funeral. Use transitional words to convey a sequence. Describe the surrounding environment. Include 2-3 reflective sentences to express Parvana's feelings on this event.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Parvana's Journey, Day 2



Key Paragraph, p. 28

"The eyes were dead. There was no life left in them. Parvana had seen that look before, in the camp for internal refugees. She had seen people who had lost everything and had given up hope that they would ever have love or tenderness or laughter again" (p. 28).

Writing Prompt

Parvana's father taught Parvana many lessons before he died. He taught her how to speak a little English, history lessons, and about people who have given up on hope. **Write a narrative dialogue between Parvana and her Father about why it is important to remain hopeful. In one paragraph establish the context of the dialogue. The dialogue should be between 25-40 lines.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 32

“‘Did they leave you all alone? Come on, you poor thing.’ She lifted the little creature into her arms. ‘Did your people get scared and forget about you?’...Parvana took the baby to the least damaged of the houses...” (p. 32).

Writing Prompt

Describe how Parvana demonstrates responsibility. **Provide three examples in chronological order from this chapter. For each example, explain how that shows Parvana is responsible.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 38

“‘I don’t like taking other people’s things,’ she said to Hassan, ‘but if I’m going to take care of you, your village will have to help me.’ Parvana looked at everything she had scavenged and carefully chose what she could carry with her” (p. 38).

Writing Prompt

Write a letter to your family. Narrate the events of Parvana’s experience at the abandon village. Describe the steps Parvana takes to take care of the baby. Explain how Parvana problem solves and is resourceful given her circumstances.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 53-54

"Dear Shauzia:

I met a strange creature today. He's part boy and part wild animal. One of his legs is missing, and he's been hiding in a cave...(read the rest of the letter)" (p. 53).

Writing Prompt

Parvana has mixed emotions about the cave boy. **Explain how Parvana is able to persuade the cave boy into doing what she wants. Narrate the interactions between Parvana and the cave boy. Use the following**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 61

"It's hard to remember that I used to sleep in a bed and had to do homework before I could watch television and play with my friends. It's hard to remember that we used to have ice cream and cakes to eat. Was that really me? Did I really leave a big piece of cake on my plate one day because I didn't feel like eating it? That must have been a dream. That couldn't have been my life" (p. 61).

Writing Prompt

Before conditions got so bad, Parvana had many luxuries that she took for granted. Imagine you were suddenly living in a war zone with Parvana, Hassan, and Asif. **Write a letter to your family describing your living conditions. Explain what you might have taken for granted (food, shelter, hot water, TV, etc.).**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 66

“‘Horses,’ he answered. ‘I’ll buy lots of horses, fast ones. I’ll ride and ride, and when the horse I’m riding gets tired, I’ll buy another one, then another. I’ll never have to stop moving’” (p. 66).

Writing Prompt

Describe how Parvana’s story compares to the factual story of Alexander the Great. **Explain what part is factual and what is fiction. Why do you think the author mentioned this person in history? How does it relate to Parvana’s story? Use the Internet to gather information about Alexander the Great.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 8



Key Paragraph, p. 77

“Dear Shauzia: I hate it when I make things worse. Why do I behave so badly? Why can't I be nice?” (p. 77).

Writing Prompt

Describe the turning point between Parvana and Asif. **Explain how they went from being unkind to each other to deciding to continue their journey together. What happened first, second, and third?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Parvana's Journey, Day 9



Key Paragraph, p. 86

"But she couldn't do it. Her father would not be proud of her if she stole. They were often hungry when they were traveling together, and although the opportunity to steal came up, her father wouldn't hear of it. 'Our bellies would be full tonight,' he would say, 'but could we live with ourselves in the morning?'" (p. 86).

Writing Prompt

Parvana is in a bit of a dilemma about whether or not to take the eggs. **Describe what would have happened to Parvana if she was caught taking the eggs. What would happen to her? Asif and Hassan? How would this punishment change the rest of her life?**

How is this scene different from when she was gathering pots and things from the bombed out town to help her and Hassan survive?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 10



Key Paragraph, p. 97-98

"Green Valley is full of food....Maybe Asif's leg will even grow back" (read entire passage p. 97-98).

Writing Prompt

Describe the Green Valley and all of its riches. **In 1-2 paragraphs write about your own "Green Valley." Where is it located? What foods are of unlimited supply? Who lives there? What does everyone do?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 110

“Leila talked non-stop as she put some food on a plate, lifted her grandmother’s head cover a little and placed the plate underneath it. Parvana watched closely. Eventually she saw slow movements under the cover as the old woman lifted morsels of food from her plate to her mouth” (p. 110).

Writing Prompt

In two narrative paragraphs, explain why Leila is a hero and how has she displayed courage. Provide three examples of Leila’s courage. How has she lived for purposes greater than herself? How is she selfless?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 115

“‘Let’s be sisters,’ she said. Being sisters sounded fine to Parvana.
‘All right. We’ll be sisters.’
‘Can your brothers be my brothers?’
‘You mean Asif and Hassan? They’re not my brothers. We sort of just found each other.’
‘That makes them your brothers,’ Leila said” (p. 115).

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Asif and **write a letter to your family telling them you are safe and staying at a girl’s house. Describe Parvana, Hassan, Leila, and her grandmother. Describe the surrounding environment using a quote from this chapter.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 120

“‘I can take over,’ Parvana said.

‘Why? We don’t need you.’ Asif finished with the worms and gently dabbed at the wound with a cloth soaked in hot water. ‘You need to keep your face clean,’ he said to Leila. ‘In fact, you need to keep your whole self clean’” (p. 120).

Writing Prompt

In two narrative paragraphs, describe how Asif taking on more and more responsibility? How does it feel to Parvana not to be the only one ‘in charge’ anymore?

Explain how it can be challenging when there are two strong leaders? How do Parvana and Asif manage that? Is she getting better at appreciating his unique gifts? *In what ways does it take courage to let someone else lead when you are used to leading?*

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 138

“I have a present for you, Grandmother,’ Parvana said, sliding the book onto the mattress. She placed the old woman’s hand on the book’s cover. ‘It’s a book, for your very own. And I will teach you how to read it’” (p. 138).

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Grandma. **From her point of view, write 2-3 narrative paragraphs to describe the changes of the house. Explain the changes of the outside and inside of the house. How has everyone become more hygienic and clean? How has the food become healthier? Describe the new routines and rules the children have created. Include 2-3 reflective sentences about Parvana’s gift.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 15



Key Paragraph, p. 143

“They each took hold of one of the dead goat’s legs and dragged it back across the minefield. Parvana thought again about a spider snatching a fly that flew into its web” (p. 143).

Writing Prompt

It is very ironic that the minefield—something so violent—is their source of food. We don’t often think about it, but when we eat, something has to die in order for us to eat it. This is the cycle of life.

In two explanatory paragraphs, describe how the minefield has been like a spider’s web for the children? Include the sequence of events that must take place in order for them to eat. What steps must take place first, second, and third?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 16



Key Paragraph, p. 157

“‘If it doesn’t matter where we go, why don’t we follow the stream?’ Leila suggested. ‘At least we’ll have something to drink that way.’ Parvana sat up and looked at the girl with admiration.

‘At least one of us is thinking,’ she said...

‘There are some trees up this way,’ Asif said. ‘Maybe we’ll find something to eat’” (p. 157).

Writing Prompt

Describe the children’s new plan. How did they decide on this plan? What were the pros and cons? Explain why it is courageous for Parvana to travel without being covered.

Or

Describe the similarities between *Parvana’s Journey* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Use the background information provided and previous knowledge of the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*. How do both books use children characters to explore good and evil?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 17



Key Paragraph, p. 168

"Parvana would never know how she found the strength. She picked Leila up and ran with her to the side of the road, then lay on top of her to keep her from rushing out again. Her free hand found Asif's. They stayed like that until the planes finished their bombing" (p. 168).

Writing Prompt

Under extraordinary circumstances, many people find extraordinary strength. **In two paragraphs, explain Parvana's strength in the beginning of the novel and in the last few chapters. Use transitional words to describe Parvana's growth. Where do you think she found the strength? Does everyone have this kind of emotional and physical strength?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 18



Key Paragraph, p. 179

"She looked out the flap of the lean-to. Inches away was the neighbor's tent. The man and his wife were arguing loudly in a language Parvana didn't understand. Is this it? She wondered. Have I come so far, just to be here? Is this really my life?" (p. 179).

Writing Prompt

In what way does reading this novel help you appreciate what you have? The novel is written based on factual accounts. **Pretend you are a foreign aid worker in the refugee camp and write a three-paragraph letter to your family about your helping people during the war. Describe the bombs, starvation, lack of hygiene and so forth. Provide one quote from this chapter.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Parvana's Journey, Day 19



Key Paragraph, p. 184

“‘There’s lots more parcels over there,’ Leila said, pointing toward the minefield. ‘They look like flowers.’ Parvana looked. The field was dotted with yellow” (p. 184).

Writing Prompt

In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the important events at the end of this chapter. What happened first, second, and third? Explain why Leila thought she would be safe in the land mine. Conclude your second paragraph with a reflection of Leila’s death.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Parvana's Journey, Day 20



Key Paragraph, p. 196

"The Taliban militia, an Afghan army, took control of the capital city of Kabul in September 1996. They imposed extremely restrictive laws on girls and women. Schools for girls were closed down, women were no longer allowed to hold jobs, and strict dress codes were enforced. Books were burned, televisions smashed, and music in any form was forbidden" (p. 196).

Writing Prompt

After reading the Author's note, reflect on your reaction to the situation in Afghanistan. Use technology, including the Internet, to support that the events in "Parvana's Journey" are based on history and facts. **In one paragraph, describe one event that took place in the novel (landmines, children of war, refugee camps, bombings in Afghanistan). In a second paragraph, support your description of the event using your Internet search findings.**