**Study Questions for “How Can One Be Persian?” and *Persepolis*?**

1. Marjane Satrapi argues that in the Western imagination Iran belongs to a “legendary East of […] fantasies and dreams and hatreds.” How does hatred figure in a landscape of dreams and fantasies? What are the sources of this hatred?
2. Satrapi objects to the reduction of all issues concerning Iran to religion, i.e. Islam. How does her representation of Iran in *Persepolis* counteract this reductive logic?
3. Who are the intended audience of Satrapi’s graphic novels and film? How might her work be received by Iranians of her generation, living inside and outside Iran?
4. How does the use of animation affect the retelling of the history of the Iranian revolution?
5. What role does guilt play in Marjane Satrapi’s life history? How is guilt represented in the film?
6. What is the significance of Marji’s relationship to her grandmother? What are some of the best examples of her interactions with her grandmother in the film?
7. What do we learn about the Iran Iraq war in *Persepolis*? What does the film convey about the war as experienced by Iranians?