



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

1. What is Father's job and why is Parvana able to help him go to work and stay with him while he works?
2. Who lives in Parvana's family, and what kind of housing do they have?
3. How had Kabul changed due to war?
4. How did the rule of the Taliban change the lives of Parvana's family?
5. Why does Parvana have to go get water for the family? Why is the water boiled?
6. Why do the four soldiers burst into the room and take Father away? What would you do if this happened to someone in your family?
7. Why was Parvana scared to go shopping alone? How were women supposed to shop? Why did the Taliban hit Parvana with the stick for shopping?
8. Compare and contrast Mother and Mrs. Weera. What do their responses to the hardships they suffer under the Taliban regime reveal about their characters?
9. What is the significance of *The Breadwinner's* title?
10. Parvana pays particular attention to her father's *shalwar kameez*. What is the garment's significance and how does that significance change over the course of the novel?
11. What does Mrs. Weera show Parvana as they are getting ready to leave? Why does she hide it under her burqa?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.gradesaver.com/the-breadwinner/study-guide/essay-questions> and
[Microsoft Word - CHL0221d.doc \(readdonegal.com\)](#)
to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Deborah Ellis is an award-winning author, a feminist, and a peace activist. With more than thirty books to her credit, she has won the Governor General's Literary Award, the Middle East Book Award, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, among others. She is a passionate advocate for the disenfranchised, donating most of her royalty income to worthy causes such as Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, Street Kids International, the Children in Crisis Fund of IBBY, and UNICEF.

<http://deborahellis.com/>

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