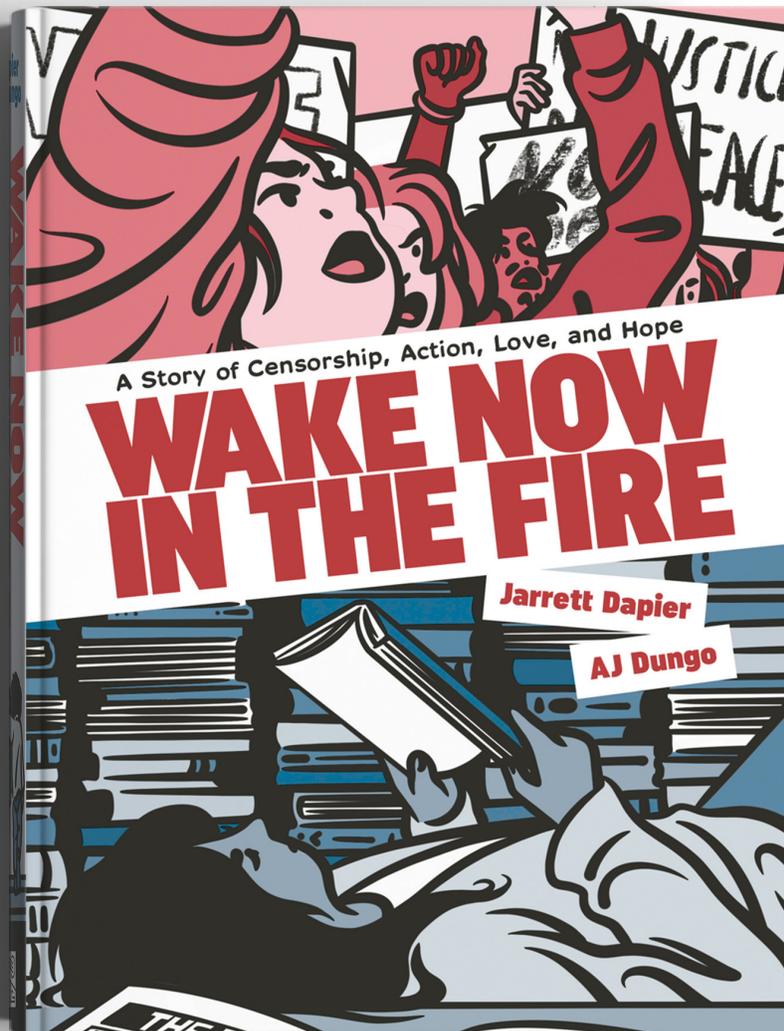


WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE

BOOK CLUB KIT

A graphic novel about censorship, community, and the power of young people to defend the freedom to read.



TEN SPEED GRAPHIC

MEET THE CHARACTERS

AOIFE CONNOR

A sharp, determined student activist who is managing the emotional fallout of her father's addiction and hospitalization while simultaneously throwing herself into the fight for literary freedom.

KENDALL DUNNE

A bold, outspoken organizer whose passion for justice is shaped by the realities of being a young Black woman in Chicago; she co-leads the protest movement.

MIGUEL VEGA

A talented artist and loyal friend who brings humor and creativity to the movement through designing the flyers and protest art that help energize their cause.

ADITI SHAHANE

A high-performing student balancing academic pressure, cultural identity, and rediscovering her love of literature as she joins the Banned Books Club.

JACKSON SWEET

A student journalist determined to get to the truth, contacting publishers, filing FOIAs, and ultimately exposing the district's censorship.

XOCHITL GONZALEZ

Another powerhouse reporter who helps uncover CPS's misleading public statements and pushes for transparency.

WESTON CRAWFORD

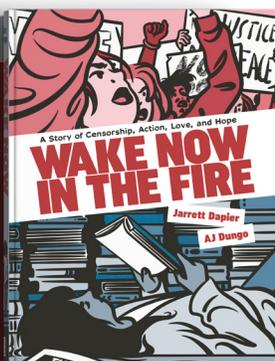
A quiet, anxious teen coping with his cousin's disappearance. *Persepolis* and the protest awaken a new sense of purpose and connection in him.

VIV

Weston's cousin whose disappearance haunts him. Her story leads the novel's themes of erasure, truth seeking, and the danger of silence.

MS. MILLS, MS. FLANAGAN & MS. SUONG

Supportive educators and a librarian who fight to protect students' right to read, even though they are being constrained by administrative pressure.



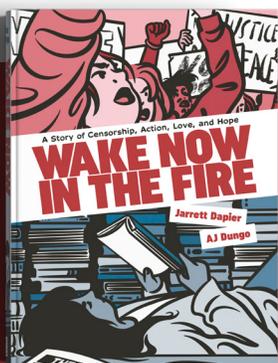
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the banning of *Persepolis* mirror the censorship depicted within *Persepolis* itself? What parallels do the students recognize and why does it anger them?
2. Which characters bring personal hurt, fear, or hope into the fight? How do Aoife's family struggles, Kendall's lived experience, and Weston's trauma shape their actions?
3. The students plan a walkout, sit-in, flyer campaign, and media outreach. Which of these tactics felt most powerful to you, and why? How do these actions resemble or differ from youth-led movements happening today?
4. Ms. Suong's refusal to hide books and Ms. Mills's emotional reaction to the ban show an adult perspective on censorship. What role do educators play in defending the freedom to read?
5. Jackson files an FOIA request and ends up exposing misleading statements from CPS leadership. What does the book say about truth in a bureaucratic system? Do you think that student journalism tends to still be underestimated?
6. Weston's fear of disappearance—of people, of stories, of truth—could be linked to the themes of censorship. How does the book effectively use "disappearance" both literally and symbolically?
7. Aditi's rediscovery of her love of books becomes a turning point in the narrative. How does reconnecting with stories help her reclaim parts of herself?
8. How does *Wake Now in the Fire* challenge the idea that teens lack power or political awareness? Where do you see real teens making similar impacts today?



WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE



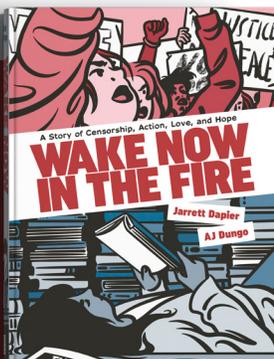
TEN SPEED GRAPHIC

Didn't read the book? That's okay. Here are some questions so anyone can take part in discussion around the book and its themes:

9. Why do you think access to books and diverse stories is important for young people? What might be lost when a school or community removes a book from its shelves?

10. Can young people create meaningful change in their schools or communities? Think of a moment when students or youth influenced something important. What do you think made them effective?

11. How can a supportive community that consists of friends, teachers, librarians, or clubs help someone speak up, especially when dealing with personal challenges or unfair situations?



WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE

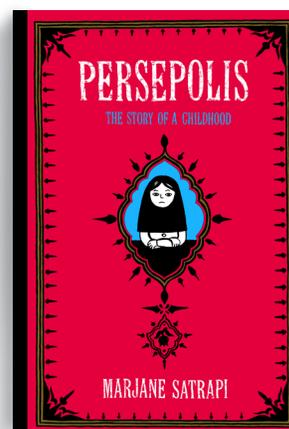
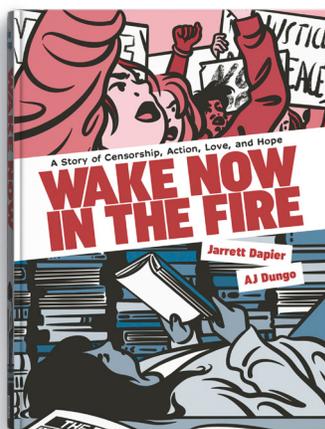


TEN SPEED GRAPHIC

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR OF *WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE*

JARRETT DAPIER is a Chicago-area librarian and the recipient of the John Phillip Imroth Award from the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Round Table for his work exposing book censorship in the Chicago Public Schools. He is the author of several award-winning picture books for children, one of which has faced several censorship attempts.

AJ DUNGO is a graduate of ArtCenter College of Design. He has worked with Nike, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Bleacher Report*, Doubleday & Cartwright, *This American Life*, *The Wall Street Journal*, ProPublica, and Virgin Orbit. His first graphic novel, *In Waves*, was an NPR Favorite Book and an ALA Alex Award winner.

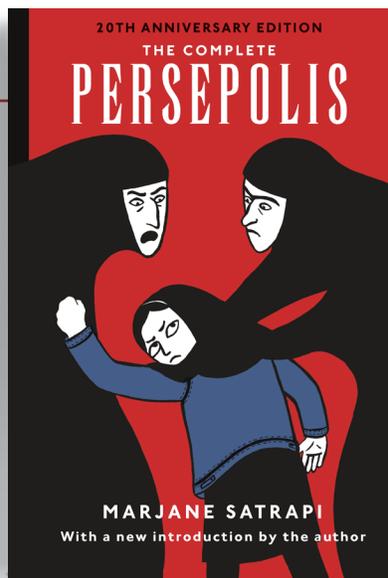


Persepolis paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

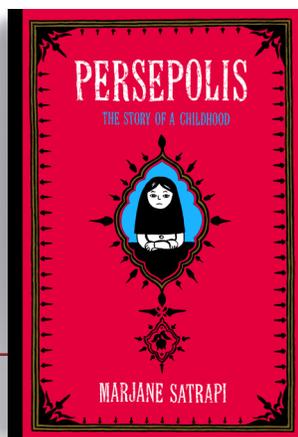
In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the coming-of-age story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

MARJANE SATRAPI was born in Rasht, Iran. She now lives in Paris, where she is a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers throughout the world, including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. She is the author of *Persepolis*, *Persepolis 2*, *Embroideries*, *Chicken with Plums*, and several children's books. She cowrote and codirected the animated feature film version of *Persepolis*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. Her most recent film was a live-action version of *Chicken with Plums*.

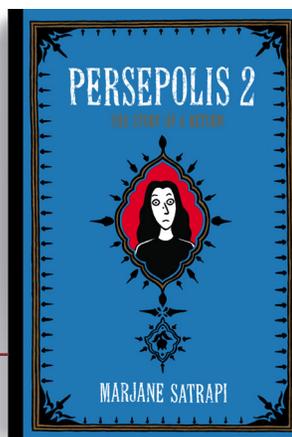
READ THE BOOKS THAT STARTED IT ALL . . .



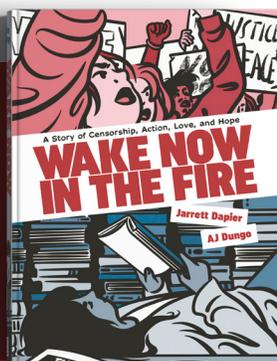
*The Complete Persepolis
20th anniversary edition*



*Persepolis: The Story of
a Childhood*



*Persepolis 2: The Story
of a Return*



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GRAPHIC NOVELS ON ACTIVISM & HISTORY

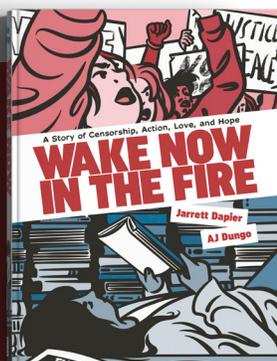
- **MARCH** trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, Illustrated by Nate Powell
- *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, Illustrated by Harmony Becker
- *Banned Book Club* by Kim Hyun Sook, Ryan Estrada, Illustrated by Hyung-Ju Ko

NOVELS EXPLORING RESISTANCE & IDENTITY

- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *This Book Won't Burn* by Samira Ahmed
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

ORGANIZATIONS DEFENDING THE FREEDOM-TO-READ

- American Association of School Librarians (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom
- National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)
- PEN America, Index of School Book Bans



WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE



TEN SPEED GRAPHIC