

About Deborah Ellis



Deborah Ellis is the author of *Parvana's Journey*. She started writing when she was 11 years old. Deborah Ellis has written 12 novels for children and 4 non-fiction books. She has won many awards, such as: the Governor General's Award, ALA Notable Book Award, and The Order of Ontario.

Deborah Ellis is also a humanitarian. She belongs to the Peace Movement and the Women's movement. She works in Toronto as a counsellor in a psychiatric group home. Deborah writes books to help teach people about problems in the world. She donates the royalties from her book sales to charities around the world. She has given more than \$450,000 to help children in Afghanistan.

Summary

Parvana wanted to have a family but her father died and her mother and siblings were missing, so she set out on a journey to find them. Parvana had to walk for days without food. She wrote letters to her friend Shauzia to keep her company. She scavenged for supplies whenever she could. Parvana found a baby in a bombed village as she was searching for supplies. Parvana named the baby Hassan and took him on her journey. Later, she and Hassan found a boy named Asif hiding in a cave. Parvana made friends with the boy and she took care of him too.

Parvana had to act like a grown-up and make all of the decisions for the group. One day she made a mistake and the children walked into a minefield. They thought they would die, but another girl named Leila walked through the mines and saved them. Leila brought them to her home. Her house was very dirty and run down because her family was gone and her grandmother had given up hope. The children fixed up the house and called their home "Green Valley." They thought they would be safe there, but the house was bombed and Leila's grandmother was killed.

The children had to set out on their journey again, but this time they had no supplies and Parvana did not have a disguise. No one would help the children. Finally, they found a refugee camp. A kind nurse took care

of Hassan and helped the children get bread. One day, a relief plane dropped food packages for the people in the camp but they fell into a minefield. Leila thought she was safe from mines so she walked out to get a package and she was killed. Parvana ran into the minefield to try and save her. While she was crying a woman tried to comfort her. The woman was her mother! Parvana's journey had ended.

Book Review

Grade 9 students will love reading *Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis because the book is interesting, suspenseful, and easy to relate to. First, students will find this book interesting. The story takes place in Afghanistan during the time of the Taliban rule. Students will read about "the magnificent Afghan landscape" and culture (21). Another reason students will love this book is because it is suspenseful. Parvana disguises herself as a boy so she can search for her missing family. Along the way she must hide from Taliban soldiers, find food, water and shelter, and avoid "bombing that continued night after night" (158). Finally, students will be able to relate to this book. Parvana acts like a regular teenager: she argues with her friend, Asif, and calls him names. She tells him, "you stink" (55)! In conclusion, this fascinating, action-packed, and realistic book will be a new favorite for any grade nine student.

Characters

Parvana is a fourteen year old girl who disguises herself as a boy so she can travel through Afghanistan looking for her family.

Parvana is generous. Even though Asif calls her names, she feeds him bread and rice. She takes her blanket and “covers him up” (54).

Asif is a nine-year-old Afghan boy who lost his leg in a landmine explosion. He hides in a cave to escape from his uncle who beats him.

Asif is angry. He takes his problems out on other people, especially Parvana. He orders her around and calls her name. When he needs help he yells, “Hey, stupid one! Get over here” (58).

Works Cited

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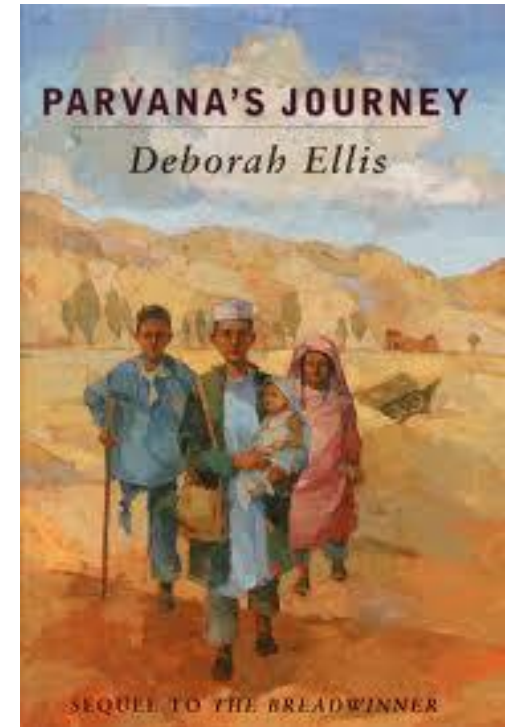
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Parvana's Journey

by Deborah Ellis



“I have to find my family” (17)!