



June 2012

Dear Parents/ Guardians and Incoming Prall Sixth Graders,

Welcome to IS 27's Academies of Engineering, Enterprise and Journalism! We're so happy that you're going to be part of our school and we're looking forward to working with you in September.

Studies have shown that students who read over the summer do better in school and on the NYS test than those who don't. In order for you to have a successful year and to reinforce our school wide goals for literacy we are requiring sixth grade students to read at least **two** books this summer and do a project on each.

All students must read **The Breadwinner** by Deborah Ellis. We hope that you will read this with a partner. Ideally this would be a parent or adult from your family. As you read keep a journal (marble or spiral notebook, or typed and collated) of your thoughts and answers to the focus questions from the attached sheet. Every entry should be 4-6 sentences long.

The second book must be from the list below. **THIS IS MANDATORY SCHOOL POLICY.**

As part of this list we have included a challenge book that is a higher reading level than the others. We invite you to stretch yourself and read this book. We have also included a picture book just for fun although it contains an important theme.

You are encouraged to read all of the books on the list including the challenge book and complete a project for each. Credit will be given for the first quarter mark on all summer reading.

In addition we trust that you will read other books of your choice. Keep a list of the books you read during the summer to receive credit in the fall.

Books

Author

1. **Island of the Blue Dolphins**

Scott O'Dell

2. **Heat**

Mike Lupica

3. **Crossing the Wire**

Will Hobbs

4. **Number the Stars**

Lois Lowry

Challenge book -
Watership Down

Richard Adams

Just for fun

Fly Away Home - picture book

Eve Bunting

For the second book that you read chose one of the options below for your project:

1. Create a journal or diary of at least 10 entries as if you were the main character (protagonist) in the story. Each entry should be no shorter than 5 sentences. These should follow the sequence of the story and have an attractive cover.
2. Create a book jacket that has a summary of the book on the back cover, a report about the author on the flaps and a colorful cover which reflects the story with title and name of the author on the front.
3. Create a children's picture book with text and illustrations based on the book you read. It should have an attractive cover and be at least 10 pages long.
4. Create an advertising poster. The poster should be approximately 18" x 22" and include the following information attractively arranged:

- Picture(s) (drawings) of the main character(s) and/or scenes from the book with appropriate descriptions from the story.
- Brief summary of the story including main characters, conflict, resolution of the problem.
- Appropriate illustrations
- Advertising information encouraging the reader to buy and read the book.

In addition your parents/guardians must sign the slip below and you will be required to bring it to your English Language Arts teacher when you return to school in September.

- You will receive credit for all of your work in September. This assignment will be part of your first quarter report card grade.
- These books will be counted as part of your required 25 books for the year.
- Certificates will be given to all students who read 5 or more books.

Have a safe and happy summer and we'll see you in September!

~The ELA Teachers

List the books you read this summer below. Be sure to have your parent/guardian sign this form.

I verify that my child _____ has read the following books this summer:

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Journal Questions for The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Keep a notebook for your work, or type entries and collate. Be sure to write your name and the name of your reading partner on the first page.

How to use the study guide:

- Read the questions for each chapter BEFORE you read the novel.
- Respond to the study guide questions in COMPLETE SENTENCES. You should write at least six thoughtful sentences for each question.

After each chapter discuss what has happened with your partner and record your answers to the following focus questions.

As you read make a list of the main characters.

CHAPTER ONE

1. How is Parvana's life different from yours? How is it the same?
2. How would you feel if you had to live this way?

CHAPTER TWO

1. Explain the mixed emotions Parvana feels about carrying water for her family. Why is it her job?
2. Why do you believe the Taliban took Parvana's father away?

CHAPTER THREE

1. Why was the act of Parvana and her mother traveling to the prison to find Father such a difficult one?
2. How do Parvana and her mother attempt to get her father out of prison and what is the result?

CHAPTER FOUR

1. **“If we had left Afghanistan when we had the chance, I could be doing my work!”**

‘We are Afghans. This is our home. If all the educated people leave, who will rebuild the country?’ (45)

Parvana says this is an argument her parents frequently have. Explain her mother's side of the argument and her father's side of the argument. Why is their's such a difficult position to be in?

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Parvana begins to change once her father has been put in prison. Characterize the change that begins to occur in Parvana. **What** does she do that shows this change and explain **why** she is changing?
2. Who is Mrs. Weera and why is her visit to Parvana's family so important?

CHAPTER SIX

1. **“They were going to turn her into a boy” (Quote from the book).** Explain the plan Mrs. Weera and the family come up with. Why must Parvana make the final decision if the plan was to work?
2. When Parvana goes out in the street dressed as a boy she feels different. Explain the difference in her feelings and why this is so.

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. Parvana reads a letter for a Talib. What is surprising about his reaction to the letter? Why?

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. Why does Mrs. Weera move in with Parvana and her family?
2. What does Parvana discover about the blacked-out window? Make a prediction about what might happen later in the novel in relation to the window.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Describe the conditions of Shauzia's life (family, work, home). Why might it be helpful to Parvana to know about the difficulties of another girl her age?
2. In this chapter, plans for the magazine and a school for girls begin to develop. What are the plans and why are such conversations so important for Parvana, Mother, Mrs. Weera and Nooria?
3. What happened at the soccer stadium?

CHAPTER TEN

1. What do the girls decide to do to make more money? Why do you think Parvana has trouble morally with the idea of this money-making scheme?
2. When Parvana has to go to the bathroom in the middle of the day, she is very scared. Explain why. What would you have done in her place?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

1. Why does Parvana cry when she returns from the graveyard? Is she being immature?
2. Why does Parvana feel that arguing with Nooria just doesn't make sense anymore?
3. Parvana can't stand to eat her Nan at lunch and gives it to a beggar instead. What does this action reveal about Parvana? What does she recognize about food in their society?

CHAPTER TWELVE

1. **"No one said anything to Parvana when the bread ran out, but she got up and went to work that day anyway. Some things just had to be done"**. What does this passage reveal about Parvana, especially in comparison to her behavior at the beginning of the novel?
2. Shauzia tells Parvana she has a plan to leave. Parvana wonders how she can leave her family. What do both girls struggle with at the prospect of fleeing Afghanistan? Why does Shauzia feel like a bad person?
3. Explain how Nooria and Mrs. Weera starting the school for girls is a form of resistance against the Taliban.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

1. Why does Nooria decide to marry a man she hardly knows? What will the benefits of the union be?
2. As Nooria leaves, Parvana teases her. A change in their relationship is evident. Explain how things used to be and how they are now as the two sisters anticipate being separated. Why do you believe this change has come about?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1. What kind and courageous act does Parvana carry out in this chapter?
2. Why does Parvana think of herself as "Malali leading the troops through enemy territory?"
3. What terrible news does Parvana receive once Homa has rested, eaten and is able to speak? Why would she not have heard about this before?
4. How does Parvana respond to this news? Why do you think she deals with the situation this way?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

1. Parvana begins to feel better in this chapter. What is the source of her new sense of purpose and hope?
2. Shauzia wants desperately to leave Afghanistan. What is Parvana's reaction to this desire? What is Mrs. Weera's response to Parvana's request that Shauzia go with her to Pakistan?
3. Why does Parvana plant flowers in the spot where she usually sells in the marketplace? The flowers draw the attention of many people. What might the flowers be a symbol of in the novel?
4. The future is uncertain for Shauzia and Parvana but they make a plan to see each other in twenty years. What is the plan and what does Parvana wonder about as she departs from Kabul?

Compare Parvana's current lifestyle with *your* current lifestyle in the following areas:

	Daily Activities	Education	Surroundings
You			
Parvana			