

Worksheet for Kerr Houston’s “Marjane Satrapi’s Persepolis”
by Sascha Crasnow
(to be used with [video linked here](#))



Key Takeaways:

1. What are some of the ways that *Persepolis* can be characterized?
2. From where does the title of the book derive, and what does it suggest?
3. Describe one example of how Satrapi incorporates elements of historical Islamic artistic motifs in the illustrations included in her graphic novel.
4. Describe an example in which Satrapi’s hybrid identity is articulated through her artistic style.

5. While there are a number of instances in which Satrapi appears to place Iran/religiosity and “the West”/secularism in opposition to each other, Dr. Houston argues that, as the book progresses, Satrapi’s narrative is not one of opposition, but rather one that confronts such an Orientalist perception. What does Houston argue is Satrapi’s ultimate message in the book?

Contextualizing the Work

1. Think of another example, either from class or your personal experience, where a contemporary work of art or cultural production has incorporated historical aesthetic elements. Describe this example, and what the purpose might be in adopting and/or adapting older artistic motifs..