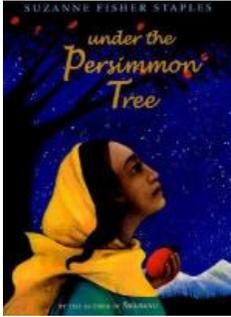


TEEN BOOK RELATED TO ONE BOOK ONE SAN DIEGO

Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Fisher Staples

About the Book



When her father and brother are taken by the Taliban and her mother and baby brother are killed in a bombing raid during the Afghan war in October 2001, Najmah begins an arduous journey across the border to Peshawar, Pakistan. There, she meets up with an American woman, Nusrat, who has been conducting a school for refugee children while she waits for her husband, Faiz, who has returned to his native country to open medical clinics. For most of the story, the narration alternates between Najmah and Nusrat, allowing readers to see the war's effect on both of their lives. Only when they meet can they come to terms with their losses and move on.

About the Author:



I was born in Philadelphia, and grew up beside a beautiful lake in the hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I had two brothers and one sister. You can read about what it was like growing up in my family in my memoir: “The Green Dog: A Mostly True Story.”

I graduated from Keystone College and Cedar Crest College, where I majored in literature and political science. I’ve always loved reading and writing, and I’ve always dreamed of traveling. So when I graduated from college I went to work for a newspaper.

Eventually I became a foreign news reporter in Hong Kong, where I worked for United Press International. I moved to India and became the chief of UPI’s South Asia bureau, where I reported on the news from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

I moved back to the United States and went to work for The Washington Post on their foreign news desk for a short time, but when I had an opportunity to return to Pakistan I jumped at the chance. I went to work under a contract for the US Agency for International Development on a literacy project in the Cholistan Desert.

I’m married to Wayne Harley, who was my first love. We live in Pennsylvania, on a farm with three cats and three standard poodles named Bogey, Mango, and BB King.

Other books by the Author

- *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*
- *Haveli*, Random House
- *Dangerous Skies*.
- *Shiva's Fire*
- *The Green Dog: A Mostly True Story*
- *Under the Persimmon Tree*
- *The House of Djinn*

Discussion Toolkit

Curriculum Connections