

Before-reading questions

1 a true

(Note: sometimes people use different spellings for this word in English.)

b true

Muslims are expected to pray five times a day, although not everyone does it.

c false

There are different face and hair coverings in different countries and or different groups of people. Some Muslim women do not do this.

3 He wants to be a success. He has lived in the UK for 16 years, but he has not achieved his dreams. He thinks his education and ability are not recognized in the UK.

CHAPTER THREE

1 *Example answer:* Very soon after Rupban died, when Nazneen was 14, Nazneen's father brought another woman to their home. Mumtaz realized it was strange that Rupban was wearing her best sari when she died. She probably thinks he started seeing this woman before Rupban died.

2 She leaves because he beats her.

3 She is alone in Dhaka without the protection of a family or husband.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 She decides not to take Nazneen to hospital and to let fate decide if Nazneen lives or dies.
- 2 They are different. Nazneen does not question accepting her fate. She does not think about her own happiness and always listens to her parents. Hasina does not listen to anyone and will break the rules to follow her heart.
- 3 She is not really happy because the man is much older than her and he is ugly. He also lives in the UK, so she has to move far away from everything and everyone she knows.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 She feels alone. She misses her sister and dreams of Bangladesh. She does not feel loved by her husband.
- 2 She likes talking about people and gossiping. She shares news about a woman falling from a building because she wants to suggest that the woman jumped. She shares news about a woman who started work because she thinks this is something to be ashamed of.

CHAPTER FOUR

1 She loves him completely. She spends most of her time thinking about his needs. She does not like it when Mrs Islam tries to take him from her.

2 *Example answer:* He probably feels shocked, because he had not invited Chanu. He is probably also embarrassed, because he did not want Chanu to see his life at home with his wife and daughter.

3 Mrs Azad is very different to Nazneen. Mrs Azad wears short skirts, smokes and drinks. She works and she is very comfortable in the UK. She is not afraid to say what she is thinking.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Mrs Islam is a usurer. She demands high interest, and her sons will hurt people if they do not pay. Nazneen is shocked because this is not allowed in the religion of Islam.
- 2 **Example answer:** He says it was his decision but maybe he was asked to leave.
- 3 She thought Raqib was getting better and that the doctors have just taken him for more tests.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 People think she sleeps with men for money.
- 2 She has two more children, one daughter called Shahana and, two years later, another daughter called Bibi. A doctor gives her pills to help with her sad feelings.
- 3 She has a difficult life and often has no place to live and not enough food to eat.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 He gets angry because she does not obey him. She is not interested in learning about Bangladeshi culture and history, and she does not want to go back to Bangladesh to live.
- 2 He borrows money from Mrs Islam.
- 3 Nazneen and Chanu both have jobs. Nazneen sews clothes and Chanu finds a job as a taxi driver.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 He hates them because they put racist leaflets through people's doors.
- 2 She likes sleeping there because it has more space than her own room, and a window for air. She also loves Baby Daisy.
- 3 She likes his confidence and his appearance. She likes watching him pray. She likes spending time with him.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 They make him upset and angry and more sure that the family must go back to Bangladesh.
- 2 The Questioner believes more action should be taken to help Muslims suffering around the world. Karim prefers to take action to help Muslims in the UK and in their community first.
- 3 He listens to everyone and makes each person feel that they have said something very important.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Sometimes she feels worried, but most of the time she feels good and is enjoying life much more.
- 2 **Example answer:** Perhaps Tariq has stolen the money to pay for drugs.
- 3 **Example answer:** He has been waiting all his life for his chance to become a success. Now he feels that he has missed his chance and that maybe he never had a chance at all.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 She starts to feel he is so young. She notices that he has a hole in one of his socks. She is not blindly in love any more.
- 2 She is extremely upset and finally has to face her son's drug problem. She does not know what to do, but she will lock him in his room if necessary.
- 3 Chanu is shocked and cannot stop watching. It makes him very sure it is time to go back to Bangladesh.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 Usually he talks a lot but does not do anything. This time he buys a suitcase and does not talk.
- 2 He rejected an arranged marriage. He wants Nazneen to leave her husband and marry him.
- 3 He is excited. He likes the idea of a possible fight.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1 She has locked him in his bedroom. She will not open the door, although he says many different things to try to get her to open it.
- 2 **Example answer:** He thinks that he and his wife had the first kind of love and now it has finished. He thinks Nazneen and Chanu have the second kind of love, that grows over time.
- 3 Rupban did not think she could try to be happy and get the things she wanted in life. She killed herself. Hasina thinks life has more options. She wants to be happy and will try to find a way even if she breaks the rules.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 1 She is afraid that Chanu will make her change her mind.
- 2 If she tells a lie and swears on the Qur'an, this is a great sin. If she does not swear on the Qur'an, she cannot make Nazneen pay her. Therefore, Mrs Islam cannot win.
- 3 **Example answer:** It means that she created an idea of Karim and fell in love with the idea, not the real Karim. Now she sees the real situation and all its problems.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

- 1 Different groups of Bangladeshi boys are fighting each other and fighting against the police. They do not have a good reason for fighting. They will fight anyone or anything in front of them.
- 2 It is dangerous. Cars are on fire. She cannot see where she is going. People are throwing things that could hurt her badly, such as bottles, cans, rocks and chairs.
- 3 He realizes that his wife and his daughters are the most important thing in his life and that they make him strong.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

- 1 She designs and sews clothes with Razia.
- 2 **Example answer:** He probably does not tell her because it is not doing well.
- 3 **Example answer:** Nazneen is not surprised, and she might be proud that her sister never gives up.

After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answers.*
- 2 **Example answer:** At the beginning, Nazneen feels very alone in the UK and misses Bangladesh a lot. As the book continues, Nazneen learns from Chanu and Karim that there can be problems with racism in the UK. But she also sees that her friend Razia is happy to cut her hair, learn English and start working. Later, Nazneen thinks more about her daughters and understands that the UK is home for them. At the end of the book she decides that the UK is home for her, too.

- 3 Example answer:** Chanu is very proud of Bangladesh. It is his dream to go back, and he thinks it will be the answer to all his problems, but it is not. Karim has never been to Bangladesh. He wants to know it better and feel more part of it. He becomes more and more religious, and at the end of the book, he finally goes to Bangladesh. Shahana hates everything about Bangladesh because she is afraid that Chanu will make her live there. She knows that sometimes girls go to Bangladesh and their family makes them marry someone. Shahana and her friend Nishi run away because they want to be in a place with no Bangladeshis. Mrs Azad loves the UK because she works, and she can wear what she wants and do what she wants. She does not want to go back to Bangladesh, and she is glad her daughter is growing up in the UK.
- 4 Example answer:** At the beginning of the book, Nazneen thinks Chanu is old and ugly, and Chanu wants someone to cook and clean for him, rather than someone to love. But as the book continues, they learn to understand each other better. Nazneen sometimes feels embarrassed by Chanu, but also wants to protect him. She knows that he is kind and a good father. Chanu slowly learns that Nazneen really is the heart of their home. She is a good mother, keeps everyone calm and does all the work around the house. Finally, he understands that he may need her more than she needs him. In the end they care deeply for each other and want each other to be happy.

- 5 Example answer:** To Nazneen, it means being free, and having control and power. When Nazneen first sees a woman ice skating on television, she is impressed by this. However, it also makes her feel bad about her own life. Later she feels ice skating is “false smiles” and that control and power are beyond her reach. But by the end of the book, she is ice skating herself.

Exercises

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 1 b 2 d 3 a 4 c 5 e

CHAPTERS THREE AND FOUR

- 2 1 Chanu hangs his **certificates** on the wall.
 2 Hasina’s husband is sometimes **impatient**.
 3 Chanu is happy to hear that Nazneen is **pregnant** and that he will be a father.
 4 Chanu loves reading great **literature**, like William Shakespeare.
 5 Razia thinks Mrs Islam should be **ashamed** of her business.
 6 Mrs Azad is not **impressed** by Chanu’s degree.
 7 Chanu thinks there is a lot of **racism** in the UK.

CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- 3 1 d 2 b 3 h 4 e
 5 g 6 c 7 f 8 a

CHAPTERS SEVEN AND EIGHT

- 4 1 b. **After** a long line of failed jobs and business projects, Chanu had given up looking for work.
- 2 e. Nazneen wondered where he had got the money, **but** she did not ask.
- 3 f. Razia and Nazneen often talked together **while** they worked.
- 4 d. Chanu had worked hard **because** he wanted respect.
- 5 c. Baby Daisy wakes at night, **so** Hasina sleeps on her floor.
- 6 a. **When** Karim came over with clothes for Nazneen to sew, he often sat on the sofa and talked.

CHAPTERS NINE AND TEN

- 5 1 The doctor said that many Bangladeshis are using drugs.
- 2 Chanu told the girls to stay away from marches.
- 3 Chanu said (that) he would go because he needed a walk.
- 4 Shahana asked Nazneen if she was in love with Chanu.
- 5 Nazneen said that when Shahana was older she would understand.

CHAPTERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE

- 6 1 False. Chanu decides that she doesn't need any medicine.
- 2 False. Karim does not visit her for a while.
- 3 True. Chanu says he will make a plan.
- 4 False. The beds remain in the apartment.
- 5 True. Nazneen hides when Mrs Islam visits.
- 6 Not given. Nazneen thinks that he knows, but Chanu says nothing.
- 7 False. That is not the only reason Karim likes Nazneen.
- 8 False. The fight might not be about drugs.

CHAPTERS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN

- 7 1 d 2 f 3 a 4 b
5 g 6 c 7 e

CHAPTERS FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN

- 8 Razia ¹ **had started** the business about five months ago. She ² **had just walked** into one of the clothes shops on Brick Lane and ³ **asked** for work. Now she ⁴ **went** around London, ⁵ **bringing** back orders and ideas for new designs. Nazneen ⁶ **worked** with her, and their friends Jorina and Hanufa. Karim ⁷ **had disappeared** and, as a result, so had Nazneen's sewing work. But, thanks to Razia, she could ⁸ **earn** enough money to take care of her family.

Project work

Reader's own answers.

Essay questions

Reader's own answers.