

Under The Persimmon Tree

By Suzanne Fisher Staples

Najmah “star”	Novel’s protagonist (main character) Twelve year old Afghan girl
Nusrat “help”	School teacher from America Changed her name from Elaine and is 25 years old Converted to Islam Husband is Faiz (doctor) Lives in Peshawar, Pakistan Opens a school for refugee children
Nur “light”	Najmah’s older brother
Baba-Jan	Najmah’s father Term that means father dear
Mada-Jan	Najmah’s mother Term that means mother dear
Habib “friend”	Najmah’s infant brother
Uncle Mohiuddin	Steals, sneaky, sells drugs (opium) on the Black Market Greedy, selfish Wealthy Baba-jan’s brother Anti-social with his family until now (he wants their fields) Mean Heavy-set
Fatima	Mother-in-law (Faiz’s mom) Short, cropped snow-white hair Bright, dark eyes Speaks in clipped British English English professor at University of Kabul Quick movements
Sultan	Nusrat’s brother-in-law (Asma’s husband) Tall, muscular man, broad shoulders No beard, no hair Has a collection of music Kind heart Poetic

