

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 “Reviver of faith”	Grows poppies that he turns into opium to sell on the Black Market Tall, heavy-set Rich Greedy, mean, bad, stingy, selfish
Fatima “captivating”	Nusrat’s mother-in-law (Faiz and Asma’s mother) English professor at University of Kabul White hair, dark eyes Birdlike (quick movements)
Sultan “ruler”	Nusrat’s brother-in-law (Asma’s husband) Strong, broad shoulders Likes music (and has a collection) Bald, clean-shaven Chair of Dept. of Education at University of Kabul
Jamshed “bright/radiant”	
Husna	Servant for Nusrat
Maha	
Haroon	He works at the refugee camp (manager) that the children live in. He wants the children to have an education and food. Good guy.

