

The Breadwinner

Have you ever wondered how life is for women in different countries? If you have, The Breadwinner, by Deborah Ellis, is the book for you. In this amazing story, ten-year-old Parvana lives in Kabul, Afghanistan. In the 1990s, the Taliban were in control and girls could not even go to school! In this life changing book by Deborah Ellis kids learn how hard life is for the women in Kabul, Afghanistan—especially for Parvana. Kids and adults should read this book because it tells of the worldwide problems that they would otherwise not be exposed to, like the lack of education in Afghanistan. It is a book above all others that will change your view of the world, *and* kids will learn how devastating and tragic life would be without school. Even though some kids don't like school they will learn it is a privilege to enjoy.

Everyone should read The Breadwinner because it teaches them that women are not educated and that is a problem that should be solved. Parvana is an example of a woman in Kabul who is not being educated. As Parvana was with her father in the market, she thought to herself that she “wasn't really supposed to be outside at all. The Taliban had ordered all the girls and women in Afghanistan to stay inside their homes. They even forbade girls to go to school.”(Ellis, 1)

Today the literacy rate—the rate of education—of women in Afghanistan is 12.6% and the literacy rate of men is 43.1%. This is an issue because women need to be educated. When women are educated it is easier for them to get a job and pay for health care. When they are educated, girls and women are more likely to marry later, have healthier families, and thus will likely live longer.

Today more women and children die in childbirth in Afghanistan than anywhere else in the world, but they can also get hurt for other reasons. Malala Yousufzai, a schoolgirl in Pakistan, was shot in the head while coming home from school, by a Taliban, because the Taliban did not want her, a girl, going to school. This proves that women should be educated legally so they can learn safely. Mala may

have been going to school, but she did not have the same education as boys. They are educated safely, without fear. Luckily, Malala lived, but she was injured for a considerable amount of time. Since women and girls are not being educated, they marry and have children earlier. This is another reason why women not being educated is a problem. If females had the same education as males it would be likely that less women and children would get hurt, go through the struggles they do, become sick, or die.

Kids should read The Breadwinner because it is a great book. Here are three reasons of many why kids and adults should read Deborah Eliss' amazing book. One reason is it gives kids a chance to learn about a different place. In The Breadwinner, Deborah Ellis puts Parvana in the perfect situations for kids to understand that life as a woman in Afghanistan is unfair and hard. Kids should also read the book because it makes them realize they should be grateful for what they have. Throughout the book kids learn that they should be grateful that they get to go to school, that they are free to do what they want to do, and they learn that they should be grateful for their friends and family. Finally, it is a great book because the Author Deborah Ellis does an amazing job of making the book come to life.

This book changed my view of the world because it made me realize what my life would be like without school. Kids and adults should read it because it might change their views too. On page 10 and 11 Parvana thought to herself "It wasn't her fault she wasn't in school! She would rather be there too, instead of sitting on this uncomfortable blanket, her back and bottom getting sore."(Ellis,10,11)

School is a place where I learn new things, work with my friends, and get to express myself. Without school my life would be dull, Parvana is an amazing example of that. I would not get to learn anything and I would never be able to get a decent job. This book made me think about all this and it made me feel so sorry for all the women in Afghanistan. The Taliban may not be in control anymore but

women are still illiterate. I have read this amazing, strong, powerful book three times and each time I learned that I should be grateful that I get to go to school because some kids do not get to.

In conclusion, women deserved to be educated. When I read The Breadwinner, the thought hit me. What do the women in Afghanistan feel? And by the end of the book I could answer that question. The women in Afghanistan must feel sad, really sad and maybe angry, because they deserve a better life than what they have. If you are looking for a well written book that will change your view of the world I would recommend The Breadwinner. Because not only is it a wonderful read, it might just change your view of how lucky you are to get to go to school, and change your view of women's education and over all your view of the world.

Bibliography

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