“Escape from Afghanistan”
By Farah Ahmedi with Tamim Ansary

A. Before You Read:

*Think about the following questions and write a paragraph response. Make sure that you write in complete sentences!*

1. How would you feel if you suddenly had to leave your native country and live in exile? What hopes and fears might preoccupy your mind?

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B. As You Read:

*Stop and answer the following questions as you read.*

**Page 353**

2. **L1 (Literary Element):** What tone or attitude do you hear in this sentence? (Pink words)

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3. **L2:** How would you describe the tone of this paragraph? (Last paragraph pg 353 to top 354)

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4. **R (Reading Strategy):** What appears to be part of the culture in Peshawar, Pakistan? (2nd column, blue words)

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Page 354
5. BI1 (Big Idea): If you were in these travelers’ position and had to choose just a few possessions to carry by hand, what would they be? (1st column last paragraph)
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6. BI2: The author and her mother face incredible challenges. What does their willingness to forge ahead tell you about their situation? (End of page 354)
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Page 355
7. R2: Visualize the “other bus station.” Why do you think that the men acted this way? (last paragraph 2nd column and top 355)
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Page 355
8. BI3: What does the description of this bus station tell you about the trip Ahmedi and her mother are taking? (End of page)
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Page 356
9. L: To what two senses do the images in this passage appeal? (2nd column 2nd paragraph)
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Page 356
10. L1: What emotions do you hear in the author’s voice? (1st column pink words)
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11. R1: Does this description differ from what you would expect if you crossed an international border? Explain. (Blue words)
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12. L2: What is the author’s attitude toward her situation? (2nd column, pink words)
13. R2: What do these details tell you about the guards at this border station? (blue words)

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Page 357

14. L3: Note that Ahmed introduces dialogue, or direct quotations of the characters’ words, at this turning point in the narrative. Why do you think she uses this technique? (2nd column last 2 paragraphs)

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Page 358

15. R1: What does this tell you about the author’s culture? (blue words)

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16. View the Photograph: Based on Ahmed’s description, how well does this photo capture the scene at the border?

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Page 359

17. R2: What can you infer about the narrator’s attitude toward challenges in life? (last column, top paragraph)

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18. L1: What tone or attitude do you hear in this statement? (1st column, pink words)
19. L2: How does the author’s word choices affect her tone in this passage? (1st column, 2nd pink words)

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20. L3: How does the tone at the end of the selection contrast with the tone at the beginning? (2nd column last paragraph)

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21. B1: How does the author draw the reader into the giddy happiness she felt on the other side of the mountain? (End of page)

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