



WEEKLY QUESTIONS - TOGETHER TEA

Week 3: Ch. 21 – Ch. 30

The questions below are intended to make you think about the material you are reading and how it applies to your own life, as well as where you can make changes. You can answer these questions on your blog, in a journal, or in our [Facebook group](#) – or all of the above! If you are behind, don't worry. All the information will be there for you to come back to at your own pace. No stress. No judgment. No guilt!

QUESTIONS:

1. Darya says that “where her kids were going was due in large part to where she, as their mother, led them. This duty felt at times as if it could drown her.” How does she feel about leading her kids to America?
2. Darya is having a hard time accepting the death of her own mother. How might this challenge affect how she mothers her kids, Mina in particular?
3. One of the most touching scenes to me was in Ch. 22 when Darya and Mina feel the sun in their apartment and immediately head outside to feel the sun on their undraped heads. In this or other sections, did you notice any other shared experiences that only a mother and daughter could relate to?
4. Why does Darya refer to America as “your America?” What does this indicate about her inner thoughts?
5. The author has referred several times before to Darya's red hair. In Ch. 22 we see her make that change. What does the change in hair color represent?

6. Why is it harder for Mina to see her mother sitting at a sewing machine, than her father being treated rudely at the pizza parlor?

7. Mina has a breakdown in Ch. 24. What is she crying for, and why did it take so long to come to a head? What is the author trying to show when Darya joins her on the floor?

8. In Ch. 26, Darya says "...children changed all the time, phases came and went. It was impossible to keep up with all their tastes and interests." Can you relate to this as a mother or as a child? What were some of the phases you or your kids have been through?

9. At the end of Part II in Ch. 26, Darya asks herself, "Had they made it? Were they almost there? Would they ever be?" What is she talking about?

10. What changes do Mina and Darya each note in arriving back in Tehran?

11. Returning to the heart of their family has given Mina a new view on her mother. What are some of the new realizations she receives?

12. What are your biggest takeaways or "Aha!" realizations from this section?

"Something was always just out of reach for her over there in America. All that time she had missed these people and hadn't even known it."