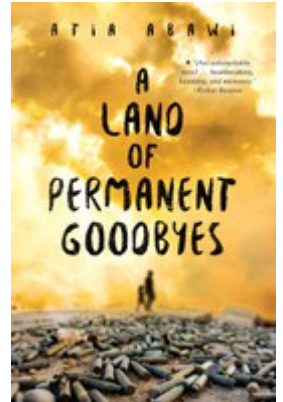


# Discussion Questions for "A Land of Permanent Goodbyes"

Discussion questions for the 2019 Teen All Iowa Reads selection, "A Land of Permanent Goodbyes" by Atia Abawi:

[Download a printable PDF of Discussion Questions.](#)



- Tareq and his family try to live a normal life, while knowing that a bomb could drop on their apartment at any time. How would you cope with this circumstance?
- Destiny narrates the story. How does this change our experience and perspective as a reader?
- Our experiences form us into the people we become. With this knowledge, compare your life as a teenager in Iowa to Tareq's teenage experiences.
- Tareq speaks with his brother Salim throughout his difficult escape from war to Europe. Why does Tareq do this, and is it helpful?
- Unfortunately, there are thousands of Tareqs and Susans who are the 'lucky ones' because they survived. Is there a solution to this problem? Is there something each of us can do to help?

## Questions from *Disrupting Thinking - Why How we Read Matters*

*Disrupting Thinking - Why How we Read Matters* by Kyleen Beers and Robert Probst presents a vision of what reading and what education across all the grades could be. In brief, whether fiction or nonfiction, they are encouraging students to read beyond the page. The goal should not be to "teach" the book, but to have rich conversations; *Disrupting Thinking* highlights ideas on how to develop those discussions. [Listen to the authors in a short podcast.](#)

Reading should be disruptive - make us think. When you read, think about what is...

### In the book

- What's this about?
- Who's telling the story?
- What does the author want me to know?

### In your head

- What surprised me?
- What does the author think I already know?
- What changed, challenged or confirmed my thinking?
- What did I notice?

### In your heart

- What did I learn about me?
- How has this text changed my thinking about the world?

"We read to learn more about ourselves. We read to become more than we knew we wanted to be. (p. 71)

"Making sure readers read beyond the words of the page" (p. 70)