# Under The Persimmon Tree

By Suzanne Fisher Staples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 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  
Name means “help” |
| Nur “light” | Najmah’s older brother  
Name means “light” |
| Baba-Jan | Najmah’s father  
Term that means father dear |
| Mada-Jan | Najmah’s mother  
Term that means mother dear |
| Habib | Najmah’s infant brother |
| Uncle Mohiuddin | Very rich  
Fat/heavy-set  
Sneaky  
Grows and sells poppies - opium/heroin (sells on Black Market)  
Baba-jan’s brother |
| Fatima | Mother-in-law (Faiz’s mother)  
Used to be an English professor at University of Kabul.  
Snow white hair.  
Bird-like (skinny, tall, smart, chatty, active) |
| Sultan | Brother-in-law (Asma’s husband)  
Bald head  
Broad shoulders, muscular, tall  
Clean-shaved face  
He has a collection of music  
Chair of Dept. of Education at University of Kabul |
| Husna | Housemaid/servant |
| Haroon | Malek (manager) of Shahnawaz refugee camp |
| Basharat | Man hired to walk/transport Nusrat and Husna around town |