**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 |
| Nur “light”      | Najmah’s older brother |
| 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  | Not a good guy  
Sells poppies - opium - heroin  
Rich |
| Fatima           | Nusrat’s Mother-in-law (Asma and Faiz’s mother)  
English professor at University of Kabul  
Bird-like (skinny, pretty, active)  
Short, cropped, snow-white hair  
Bright, dark eyes |
| Sultan           | Asma’s husband (Nusrat’s brother-in-law)  
Gentle soul  
Tall, muscular, broad shoulders  
Clean-shaven face, bald head  
He has a collection of music  
Chair of Dept. of Education at University of Kabul |
| Husna            | Nusrat’s housemaid/female servant  
Middle-aged, greying hair |
| Maha             | Asma’s housemaid/female servant |
| Haroon           | Man who brings the children from the refugee camp (he’s the manager of the refugee camp, Shahnawaz) |