### Under The Persimmon Tree
**By Suzanne Fisher Staples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Najmah        | Novel’s protagonist (main character)  
Twelve year old Afghan girl                                          |
| Nusrat        | 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           | 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 | Selfish, sketchy, weird (stalker-y)  
He sells poppies - opium - heroin (sells on the Black Market)  
Rich  
Heavy-set                                        |
| Fatima        | Nusrat’s Mother-in-law (Faiz’s and Asma’s mother)  
Positive relationship  
Snow-white hair  
Bright, dark eyes  
English professor at University of Kabul  
Birdlike (talkative, features, actions, perceptive, energetic) |
| Sultan        | Nusrat’s brother-in-law (Asma’s husband)  
Chair of the Department of Education at University of Kabul  
Gentle soul, heart of a poet  
Bit eccentric (he listens to folk music from Afghanistan)  
Bald, muscular, broad shoulders  
Clean-shaven                                                                 |
<p>| Husna         | Nusrat’s housemaid/servant                                                                                                                            |
| Maha          | An old lady that was Faiz’s housemaid when he was young                                                                                           |
| Haroon        | Kind                                                                                                                                               |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basharat</td>
<td>Pretends to be Nusrat’s husband/Husna’s brother when they go to the bazaar. Paid to transport Nusrat</td>
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</tbody>
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Finds the refugees and brings them to Nusrat’s Manager of the refugee (Shahnawaz)