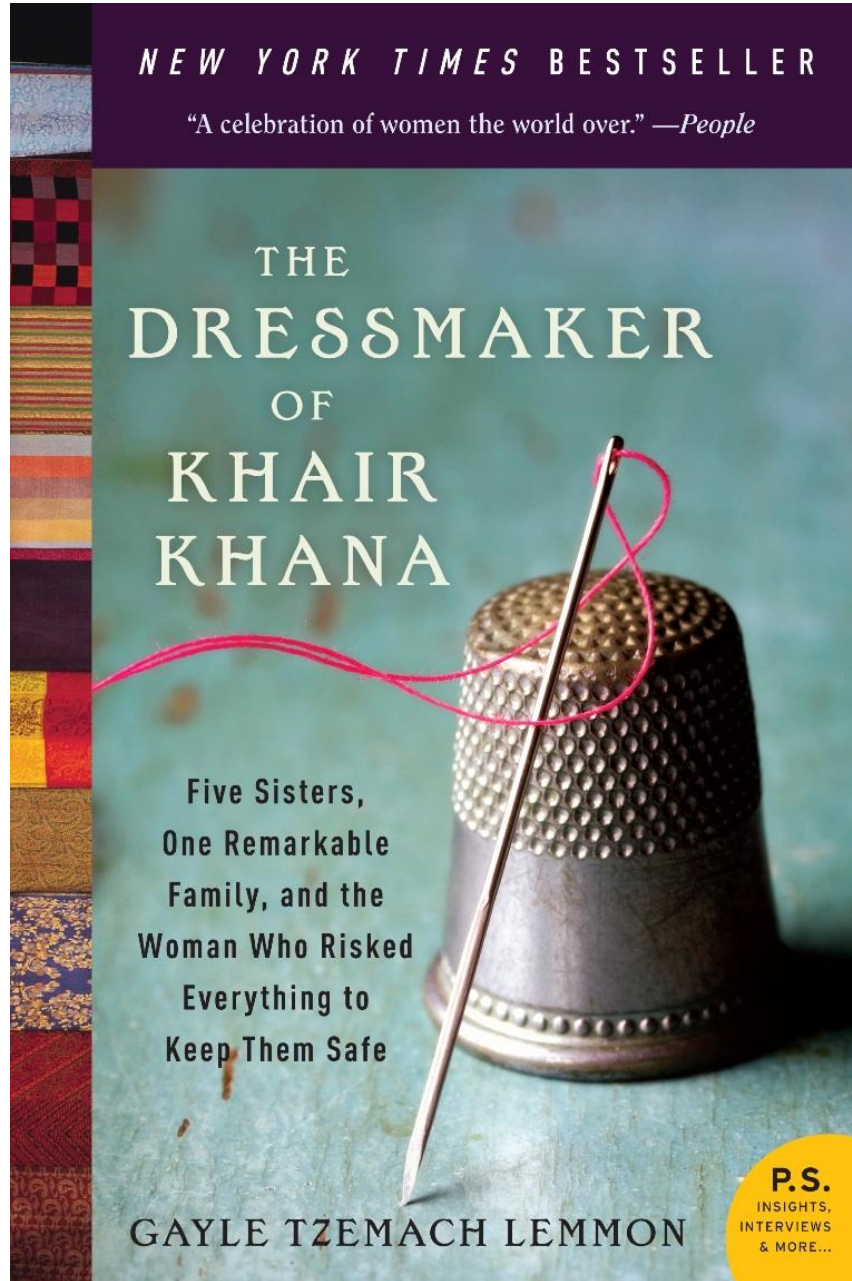


# Instructor's Guide to

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These teaching materials were written by Diane Fitton.

# THE DRESSMAKER OF KHAIR KHANA

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# LEARNING OUTCOMES

## *Students will be able to*

- Recognize and assess dangers of living under Taliban rule
- Describe severe societal restrictions and punishments imposed by Taliban
- Identify customs and traditions specific to Afghanistan
- Compare living in a democracy with living in a society ruled by Taliban
- Compare education opportunities living in Afghanistan and the U.S.
- Analyze the role of family to reach common goals
- Evaluate the impact of work ethic to accomplish goals
- Appreciate the importance of global education
- Appreciate the role of problem solving and creativity to overcome obstacles
- Appreciate the opportunities available for American citizens

## WHO'S WHO & TERMS TO KNOW

<b>FAMILY</b>		page
Kamila Sidiqi	main character, 19 years old	xx
Jan	Used as a second name, term of endearment	1
Woja Abdul Sidiqi	Kamila's father	8, 21
Rushasva	Kamila's mother	9
Najeeb	brother, 17 years old	29
Rahim	brother, 13 years old	69
Malika	married sister, 24 years old pregnant, 4 kids	xxiv
Laila	sister, 15 years old	67
Saaman	younger sister	39
Nasrin	youngest sister	99
Hossein	nephew	10
Farzan	Malika's husband	81
<b>COMMUNITY</b>		
Soraya	teacher	17
Razia	neighbor	41
Neelab	tailor	126
<b>BUSINESS</b>		
Mehrab	shop owner	75
Roya	Kamila's pseudonym	75
Ali Sadif	shop owner, brothers	93
Mahmood	shop owner	95
Sara	supervisor for sewing projects	109
Hamid	shop owner	122
Nasia	student	133
Mahnaz	student	134
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>		
Dr. Najibullah	Najibullah, (August 6, 1947 – September 28, 1996) fourth and last President of the Soviet-backed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Also considered the second President of the Republic of Afghanistan.	2
<b>CULTURE</b>		
Rumi	13th century Persian poet	42
Dwan of Hafiz	14th century Persian lyrical poet	43
Farhad Darya	popular Afghan singer and composer	155

## INTERNET LINKS

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**CIA World Fact Book:** <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

### Afghanistan

**World Atlas: Afghanistan** <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/af.htm>

**Panjshir Valley** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnBeURNzlaY>

**BBC: Historical Timeline** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12024253>

**Afghanistan Before & After** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6PseXipJgE&feature=related>

**Street Scenes in Kabul** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqKt7DJH\\_Xc&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqKt7DJH_Xc&feature=related)

**Afghanistan Life Style** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-efk59Piz4&feature=related>

**Islamic Women's Attire** <http://www.users.cloud9.net/~bradmcc/GO/attire.html>

**Girls Education in Afghanistan** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPoYhE0MUow>

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# CHAPTER QUESTIONS

## CHAPTER 1

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
suffice	to be enough	12
piety	religiousness	16
furtive	secretive	17
harrowing	disturbing	20

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
Where was Kamila when she overheard women talking about the Taliban?	Kamila was sitting in a bus.	7
Why did Kamila's father move his family to Khair Khana?	Mr. Sidiqi felt that Kabul offered his nine girls the best opportunity for a good education.	8
Why did Malika (Kamila's sister) leave her house with her son?	Malika's son was sick.	10
How did Soraya Jane help Malika get home?	Soraya borrowed a chadri from her aunt for Malika to wear walking home.	18

### Discussion Questions

1. Describe Kamila's father, Woja Abdul Sidiqi. From reading chapter 1, what can you figure out about his character and values regarding family, country, politics, and education?
2. Discuss the effect of years of civil war on Khair Khana. From reading chapter 1, what examples are provided that illustrate destruction in the city and restrictions on daily life?
3. Explain people reactions to hearing that the Taliban were approaching Khair Khana. From reading chapter 1, why were people fearful? Were these fears justified? Explain.
4. Compare living in Khair Khana with living in U.S. From reading chapter 1, find five points of comparison that highlight similarities or differences.

## CHAPTER 2

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
zealous	fanatical	25
debauchery	wickedness	25
edicts	laws	26
despondent	hopeless	28
dreary	monotonous	29
grim	dismal, gloomy	29
terrain	land	33

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
How did Kamila and her family keep up with news?	BBC News was the only source of news.	21
What is Mr. Sidiqi's highest obligation and duty of his faith?	Mr. Sidiqi's highest obligation is to educate his children.	27
How did the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Suppression of Vice operate?	These "enforcers" fanned out across the city and brutally punished anyone who disobeyed the new rules.	30
What are two reasons why Kamila's neighbors left Kabul?	Neighbors left because of ruthless politics and a collapsing economy.	31
Why did Kamila and her sisters stay in their home instead of leaving with their father?	It was too dangerous for five young women to travel. Also, the sisters would be besieged by wedding proposals in Parwan.	36

### Discussion Questions

1. Compare Woja Abdul Sidiqi's initial lack of concern about the Taliban with his subsequent growing worries. From reading chapter 2, give reasons why Mr. Sidiqi believed that his family and he could continue living unharmed in Khair Khana. Why did he leave his family behind?
2. Discuss the Taliban's immediate impact on Khair Khana. From reading chapter 2, provide examples that show how the Taliban restricted all sectors of life for males and females, young and old.
3. Explain how the Ministry for the Promotions of Virtue and Suppression of Vice was actually a euphemism for a very dangerous organization. From reading chapter 2, provide evidence that proves the Ministry's definition of virtue and vice was restrictive and punitive.
4. Describe the roots of Taliban brutality. From reading chapter 2, give details of the Taliban background and their attitude toward females, religion, and country.
5. Assume you were living in a wonderful house that your family had built from scratch when the Taliban arrived. From reading chapter 2, what would be your rationale for staying or leaving? Provide at least four reasons.

## CHAPTER 3

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
gregarious	outgoing	39
composure	calmness	40
precarious	dangerous	46
destitute	impoverished	47
frocks	dresses	49
recounted	described	56

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
What types of books did Kamila and Saaman love to read?	Kamila and Saaman loved to read the famous Persian poets.	42
What did the sisters organize to help cope with their restlessness?	The sisters organized a neighborhood book swap.	42
Who taught Kamila how to sew?	Malika taught Kamila how to sew.	57
What was Malika's number one rule that Kamila had to follow?	Malika's rule: Never go out alone.	57
Who from the family would be joining Mr. Sidiqi in Parwan?	The mother, Mrs. Sidiqi, would leave for Parwan.	63

### Discussion Questions

- Compare the value system evidenced within the Sidiqi family and that of your own family. From reading chapter 3, explain the Sidiqi family's values regarding family, education, work. Then show similarities and differences with your experience.
- Discuss how Kamila copes with her family's dire situation. From reading chapter 3, provide examples that show the actions Kamila takes to overcome the obstacles she faces.
- Explain how the Taliban controlled even the smallest details of everyday life. From reading chapter 3, provide evidence of the extent of Taliban's rigid control.
- Describe how the Taliban enforced segregation. From reading chapter 3, give details that include daily living and work.
- Assume you were living in Khair Khana when the Taliban arrived. You can no longer attend college. You cannot get basic necessities. You have no government assistance with funds and you cannot find a job. There is no infrastructure. Your siblings need you to survive. How would you utilize or create a support system? What would be your plan to survive?



## CHAPTER 4

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
litany	listing	66
formidable	challenging	67
burly	husky	72
elation	joy	74
admonished	reprimanded	76
barren	bare	78
impetuosity	impulsiveness	78
excruciating	very intense	87

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
When Najeeb left he didn't want to risk losing what he valued. What did he leave behind?	Najeeb left his books.	67
With Najeeb gone, who was Kamila's mahram?	Kamila's thirteen-year-old brother, Rahim, became Kamila's mahram.	69
Why did Kamila go to the Lycee Myriam?	Kamila went to the Lycee Myriam to get orders to sew dresses.	64
How long did Kamila have to complete her first order of five pantsuits and three dresses?	Kamila agreed to sew all these pieces of clothing in one week.	75
Who is Roya?	Roya is Kamila's fictitious name she used to protect her identity and to protect the shopkeeper.	75

### Discussion Questions

1. Describe the risks involved with Kamila setting up a home-based business in Khair Khana. From reading chapter 4, give details that demonstrate the risks involved.
2. Discuss the Islamic belief that helping one's family is a sacred obligation. From reading chapter 4, show how Kamila's siblings, Saaman, Malika, Rahim, Laila support and help one another.
3. Explain Mr. Sidiqi's belief that "learning is the key to the future." From reading chapter 4, provide evidence that learning was critical for the Sidiqi family to survive.
4. Explain the process Kamila followed to set up a home-based business with high standards. From reading chapter 4, describe how despite limited resources, Kamila maintained a strong work ethic and produced quality dresses.
5. From reading chapters 1 - 4, with whom can you identify the most or the least? Who is the person? Include this person's personality, work ethic, motivation, and values. Provide reasons and examples. Compare your choices with other members of your group.

## CHAPTER 5

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
perilously	dangerously	98
cacophony	jarring, discordant sound	99
constituted	represented	100
somber	gloomy	102
queue	a line of waiting people or vehicles	103
melancholy	depressed	109

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
Why did Ali give up his pushcart business selling linens and kitchen supplies?	It became too dangerous to be out in the street.	95
Why did Kamila memorize dress designs instead of sketching them?	Drawing was illegal.	97
How did Malika embellish wedding dresses so that, despite government restrictions, the brides would still feel beautiful?	Malika added elaborate beading and embroidery.	103
What request did Aunt Huma ask of the Sidiqi girls?	The aunt wanted the sisters to leave for Pakistan with her.	105
How did Sara's work help out the business?	Sara helped supervise and made sure the orders were completed with high standards.	112

### Discussion Questions

1. Compare the roles of extreme civility and incivility that dominated life in Khair Khana. From reading chapter 5, give specific examples of individuals who behaved with civility and respect with those who behaved with incivility and intolerance.
2. Describe how teenagers had to grow up fast in Afghanistan. From reading chapter 5, select four responsible teenagers and give evidence that these teenagers were not only mature, but demonstrated strength of character.
3. Explain the cycle of hard work that the Sidiqi sisters demonstrated. From reading chapter 5, provide details that demonstrate their uncomplaining determination.
4. Discuss what it means to live in a truly impoverished country. From reading chapter 5, compare economic poverty in U.S. with Afghanistan's situation.
5. Explain how problem solving was key to the Sidiqi's survival. From reading chapter 5, identify four problems that the Sidiqi sisters faced and how they met each challenge.

## CHAPTER 6

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
inscrutable	unreadable	119
discreetly	unnoticeably	120
grapevine	gossip	125
entreaty	plea	126
infinite	endless	137
disheveled	unkempt	138
flourishing	thriving	140

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
What was Kamila's special talent when she spoke with shopkeepers?	Kamila could negotiate prices.	117
What new idea did Kamila share with Rahim?	She wanted to start a tailoring school.	118
Why was an old woman, shopping with her daughter, attacked and beaten by Talibs?	The old woman opened her chadri so she could look at dresses in a display case.	124
How were the girls who attended Kamila's school charged?	There was no fee; it was an apprenticeship system.	125
How many hours a day did the workshop run at full capacity?	The workshop ran fifteen hours a day at full capacity.	132
What was Kamila's first big investment for the business?	She bought two zigzag machines.	133
What scare did Kamila and her sisters face one evening?	Rahim was stopped by the Taliban.	138

### Discussion Questions

1. Explain how being "honorable" is an important concept in Khair Khana. From reading chapter 6, define what "honorable" means and then give examples of four people in the book who were honorable.
2. Discuss the goals that Kamila makes for her home-based sewing business. From reading chapter 6, identify four goals that Kamila makes, the importance of each, and how she accomplishes each goal.
3. Describe the risks and challenges that Kamila took to expand her home-based business. From reading chapter 6, identify four problems and how Kamila and Rahim resolve each.
4. Compare rules that are made to protect people. From reading chapter 6, compare four house rules that Malika established to protect her family and friends with four house rules your parents established to protect your family.
5. Explain how time management was key to success for Kamila's sewing business. From reading chapter 6, describe a typical working day by creating a sequenced list of activities that took place from morning to night.

## CHAPTER 7

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
austere	bare	143
relentless	steady and persistent	143
rampant	widespread	145
despair	depression	145
abide	tolerate	145
chafed	annoyed	145
churning	producing an abundance with speed	147
apparatus	device	148
marathon	prolonged effort	157

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
What two things were patients expected to bring to a hospital?	Patients had to bring their own food and fill their own prescriptions.	142
What deal did Dr. Maryam's father make with the Mujahideen so that his daughter could attend university?	He supplied them with as much wheat as they wanted so Maryam could finish her medical training.	144
Why was Dr. Maryam concerned about Kamila?	Kamila was sleep deprived and pushing herself constantly. She needed rest.	146
Why was the family's request to make six dresses for a wedding challenging?	The family needed the dresses in one day.	151
Although short on time, what did Malika insist on doing to the gowns before the customers could leave?	Malika insisted that the gowns be pressed.	160
What did Kamila learn about Shafiqua's bridegroom?	The bridegroom was part of the Taliban.	161

### Discussion Questions

1. Explain how teamwork was an essential component during Kamila's dressmaking marathon. From reading chapter 7, show the teamwork involved to accomplish this demanding feat.
2. Discuss the impact of stress for people living in Afghanistan. From reading chapter 7, provide details that show how and why individuals faced major levels of stress during Taliban rule.
3. Describe Afghan customs that you learned about from reading thus far. From reading chapters 1 – 7, identify customs regarding food, home, and salutations. Which ones would you consider trying yourself?
4. Compare the process of obtaining a college education in Afghanistan and United States. Discuss what was involved for Dr. Maryam to attend college with your experience. What was the process for you?
5. Discuss the implications about Kamila and her sisters working around the clock to make six dresses for a wedding party. How does this episode enlighten your understanding of the term, "work ethic."

## CHAPTER 8

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
elusive	hard to hold onto, “escapes”	165
commemorating	honoring	173
demeanor	conduct, manner	177
infrastructure	basic societal facilities and systems	178
tenacious	stubborn, persistent	178
dogged	determined	181
prestigious	respected	184

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
Who was the unexpected visitor late one evening?	Mr. Sidiqi was the surprise visitor.	166
To where does Mr. Sidiqi flee to safety?	Mr. Sidiqi flees to Iran to stay with Najeeb.	171
Who made breakfast early in the morning for the Sidiqi siblings?	Kamila’s mother made breakfast for the family.	172
Why did Hafiza and Mahbooba visit Kamila?	They wanted Kamila to help out with community-based programs.	179
What was the # 1 UN Habitat community program?	Foremost of the three programs was education.	181

### Discussion Questions

1. Explain the high cost of living under Taliban rule. In chapter 8, the author states, “The Taliban may have brought security to the streets of Kabul, but peace remained elusive.” (p. 165)
2. Discuss the importance of civic engagement in one’s country. In chapter 8, Mr. Sidiqi states, “This is our country and we must stay and see it through whatever comes. This is our obligation and privilege.” What does Mr. Sidiqi mean? Considering your life as an American, why do you agree or disagree with Mr. Sidiqi’s sentiments?
3. Describe the role of the Women’s Community Forums in assisting Afghans. From reading chapter 8, show how the forum functioned, including details about its three categories.
4. Explain the power of a community that works together. From reading chapter 8, show the precautions neighbors took for one another, the sharing of resources, and their sense of community.
5. Discuss the role of pride in Afghanistan. In chapter 8, the United Nations organizer, Mahooba, states, “They’re very reluctant to take our help otherwise, you know, since they don’t want handouts.” What conclusions can you reach about the Afghans? Based on your experience or observations, how does this attitude compare with Americans in similar situations?

## CHAPTER 9

### Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
scenario	outline of an expected sequence of events	196
seethed	fumed, raged	199
deferentially	respectfully	200
merciless	harsh	201
drought	long period of low rainfall	201
futile	unsuccessful, useless	204
unabated	undiminished	204
lugubrious	mournful, gloomy	206
pariah	outsider	210
imminent	about to happen	211
barrage	bombardment	213

### Short Answer Questions

Questions	Answers	Page
Why does Kamila travel to Pakistan?	Kamila was going to attend a training session hosted by her international bosses.	195
What fib did Kamila tell the Vice & Virtue member when the Talib entered Ali's store?	Kamila told the Talib that Ali was her cousin.	196
Why didn't Rahim accompany his sister on the bus?	Rahim had school exams.	198
How does the man on the bus react when the Talib question him?	The man panics and states that he is not the women's mahram.	199
What strategy does Kamila use to get the Talib to let them go?	Kamila talks calmly and respectfully. She appeals to his sense of family.	200
What "epidemic" hits Kabul?	Titanic "fever" hit the city, anything related to the film was popular.	203

### Discussion Questions

1. Describe the impact of the movie, *Titanic*, in Kabul, a city where poverty and despair predominated. From reading the book thus far, what accounts for this "epidemic"? Why did people relate so intensely to the movie?
2. Compare Malika and Kamila's tolerance for risk taking. How does each sister react to taking risks? Show what you have learned about each sister's personality, perceptions, and behaviors that explain these differences. How do these differences impact the relationship between these two sisters and the business itself?
3. Consider the consequences of living in a society where the ruling power has a crushing control over people's lives. How does this insight add to your understanding of living in a democracy? What obligations do citizens have in a democracy?

4. Discuss what you learn about Afghanistan preceding and following the infamous September 11th attack. In chapter 9, the author states, "The world was off its hinge." (p. 208). Give examples that show how life significantly changed for Afghans, and specifically, for the Sidiqi family.

## EPILOGUE

### Define Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Page #
epilogue	conclusion	217
foray	venture into	219
ebullient	enthusiastic	219
skepticism	disbelief	219
cynicism	doubt, distrust	219
euphoria	elation	219
beguiling	enticing	234

### Short Answer Questions

Question	Answer	Page #
How did people in Khair Khana express their joy when the Taliban retreated?	Songs were blaring, cars honked their horns, and children played soccer throughout the streets.	218
When Northern Alliance soldiers spread out across the capital, where did the Sidiqi sisters hide?	The girls hid in a crawlspace under the stairs that led up to Dr. Maryam's office.	218
Why did Condoleezza Rice, the American Secretary of State, call Kamila?	Kamila was invited to speak to Congress about her experience and her accomplishments in Afghanistan	222
What does Kaweyan refer to?	Kaweyan is the name of Kamila's new business development service.	224
Why did Kamila consider herself lucky?	Kamila had an educated father who made sure all nine children studied and learned.	225

### Discussion Questions

1. This book spans five years from the inception of Taliban rule to their retreat in 2005. Considering this time period, explain how the Sidiqi house was both a refuge and a haven.
2. Throughout the five years that Taliban ruled Afghanistan, the Sidiqi were committed to making ends meet and to helping their community. Explain what you have learned about the power of family, community, and the role of education during perilous times.
3. All members of the Sidiqi family adapted to harsh living conditions with dignity and patience. What lessons can be taken from their story?
4. How well informed were you about Afghanistan before reading this book? Has reading this story reshaped or reinforced your understanding of the role of global education? Has it reshaped or reinforced your views of life within the United States?
5. Imagine you were to write a letter to one of the people you read about in *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*. To whom would you write a letter? What questions would you ask that were not answered in reading this book?



## ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 1

Often, the things people take for granted in their lives become more dear when those things are jeopardized or taken away. As you start to read *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, you are learning about people who no longer take for granted many things they might have enjoyed or needed.

In a well-developed essay, describe three things jeopardized or taken away from Afghans that you would miss most dearly if that were to happen to you.

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 2

In *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, Kamila Sidiqi shows responsibility when it might have been easier to simply give up. In a well-developed essay, describe how Kamila Sidiqi clearly demonstrates responsibility despite living in adverse conditions.

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 3

In *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, the Taliban's regime ignored universal rule of civility and decent behavior. In a well-developed essay, illustrate how the Taliban's harsh rules impacted life in Kabul.

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 4

In *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, Kamila Sidiqi makes a decision to start a dressmaking business in her home. Throughout the book, we learn about the far-reaching consequences of Kamila's decision. In a well-developed essay, explain the consequences of this decision.

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 5

In reading *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* this semester, you have had the opportunity to reflect about how your life is similar to and different from people living in Afghanistan.

Many Americans assume that communication and travel will remain unfettered, education will be paid for or subsidized, medical care can be obtained, and our lifestyle (religion, culture, etc.) is of our own choosing. As we have learned by reading *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, we live a privileged life in comparison to other people's realities around the world.

In a well-developed essay, compare about what you believed before reading the book and what you believe now. You may compare your beliefs about Afghanistan, your beliefs about being American, or your beliefs about global education.