

MFA

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How Identity Affects Choices

Have you ever wondered why the character in the book you're reading made a decision and what was going on in their head and the author's head? In the book, *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis Parvana has the decision to go out and get food for her family which can be dangerous, or just stay in. I think the author Deborah chose Parvana to go out and get food because when writing her character she made Parvana outgoing and family-oriented. Authors use the identity of the character to help them make choices.

Identity to me is who you are, your gender, personality traits, motivations, and much more. For my first example, I will be explaining how Parvana's identity affected why she became a boy. One quote I have is “ I've been thinking about this. If you're going to be a boy outside, you should be a boy inside, too. What if someone comes by?” Pg.69 *The Breadwinner*. Parvana seems to be a very family-oriented person and a risk-taker as well as very intelligent and these all will play into her decision. Since Parvana is very family-oriented she would do anything for her family even if that means she cannot entirely be herself. Parvana is a risk-taker and even though it would be more of a risk to be a girl at home she is also very intelligent and it's the smartest thing to do. In the whole book Parvana has to make numerous decisions this is probably one of the most important decisions.

Not only is this a good example but another one is going to prison and trying to get her father. There are many reasons why this is dangerous and shows she is a risk-taker because she has never seen a prison but doesn't care because she wants to save her father. She has never been to a prison she has only ever imagined because anytime she has ever asked adults say she is too young. Since she and her Mother are going they have less of a chance of getting him because they are women and her Mother brought a photo of her Father and photos are illegal but that doesn't stop them from going and that is because she is very persistent person. When they reach the prison Parvana's mother speaks up and asks for their father and when her mother is getting ignored by the guards something in Parvana tells her to speak up for the risk-taker in her. Even when they were beaten for speaking up it didn't change the fact that she wanted her father back and she would do anything to get him. This choice shows how brave she is and will do anything for her family.

Furthermore, Parvana's identity has affected every choice she has made in the book. Parvana's identity shows through while she is making choices that affect what happens to her life. It also shows how you can choose your path and every choice will have an outcome. Authors use the identity of the character to help them make choices.