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### From Girl to Boy

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be the opposite gender? Parvanna in *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis has experienced that first hand. Changing genders isn't easy especially when you're Parvanna and have to do it for your families survival. Parvanna lives in Afghanistan where no women are allowed outside, they can go outside with another guy but that is very rare. Parvanna's father used to be the guy who goes and gets food, water and other resources for the family, but he got arrested by the Taliban Soldiers. Parvanna had to go out and get resources for her family very discreetly and wrapped up in a burqa, or a chador. You're probably thinking, "Well if she has an older or younger brother can't one of them do it instead of her?" No, they can't because her oldest brother died in a minefield and was blown up, and her younger brother is too little to go out on his own. So in order for her to not get beaten by the taliban soldiers she has to cut her hair and dress up in her older brother's clothes and immediately all the memories of her older brother came back to her.

Parvanna's father was a letter reader and so Parvanna had to do her fathers job in order to make money for her family. Parvanna was scared at first to make herself look like a boy. She was most afraid of the Taliban exposing her true identity as a girl but to her surprise the Taliban didn't recognize her. "Out on the street, she kept waiting for people to point at her and call her a fake. No one did. No one paid any attention to her at all. The more she was ignored, the more confident she felt." (p. 67). Parvanna was willing to risk her life to help her family. The only

upside to this was that she could walk around the marketplace and breathe the actual air instead of the air coming through her burqa. Parvanna was especially nervous to cut her hair and basically transform into a boy. Parvanna wasn't just feeling nervous.

She was also super brave, not just because she was going to pretty much switch genders, but also because she knew she would be helping her family. Parvanna knew that she was going to be risking her life to save her family's life from starvation. That is the main reason why Parvanna was so brave, and not necessarily excited but more than willing to help her family.

Parvanna didn't really know what she was getting herself into at first but she knew it wasn't going to be easy. That is why she was willing to do it because she didn't want any of her sisters to do it mainly because they had other jobs to do but because she didn't want her siblings to go through that. Her siblings didn't want to go through that either. Parvanna didn't know what she was getting herself into but she knew it would help her family.