

WHS Book Rationale

Title: *Behind the Burqa*

Author: Batya Swift Yasgur

- **Intended Audience**

English 10 and Honors English 10

- **Brief summary and educational significance**

This book sheds light on the lack of voice women have in Afghanistan. The account is of two sisters who are 16 years apart. The book follows the older sister as she grows up in a strict Muslim household. She also tells of the events that she was forced to make between being sent to prison and leaving her country forever. The younger sister relays events of her childhood during the rise of the Mujihaddin and the brutality of the population of Afghanistan trying to rid the country of all influences Western. We also see her trials and tribulations of fleeing her homeland and arriving in the United States as an asylum-seeker.

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**

This book is non-fiction which aligns with the Common Core Standards, as well as the sophomore English curriculum, which is World Literature. This book provides important information about conditions in Afghanistan, as well as the plight of asylum-seekers in the United States. This will be a choice book for summer reading.

- **Potential problems**

War related issues, violence against women, misogyny

- **Addressing potential problems**

We will discuss the history of this time period and how it affected the people of Afghanistan. The teacher will also address any issues any students brings up.