

Character Questionnaire

Tell me about yourself:

- What's your name? Amira
- How old are you? 24
- What are your **two** most physically defining features that cause people to recognize you? Thick long curly black hair, huge brown eyes
- How do you typically dress? What do your particular clothing choices / accessories say about you? Thrifted preppy style, always on trend
- Empty your pockets. What's there?: fruity lip balm, wallet with bus pass and library card, bobby pins
- Where were you born / where have you grown up? First generation canadian, Toronto
- Where do you live now? (give a location and type of living space, for ex: renting a room in a mansion in Los Altos Hills): Cambridge (close to Toronto), 2 bedroom apartment
- Where are your favorite places in the world and why? Small coffee shop a couple miles from campus, safe place
- What's your primary mode of transportation? bus
- How do you make a living (what's your source of income?) college student, unpaid interning at company, on campus coffee shop barista
- Who are your parents? Indian immigrants
- Do you have any siblings? Younger brother, 18
- Are there any other family members/relatives that are of special significance to you? Close relationship with grandmother
- Did you have a happy childhood? Explain: immigrant parental pressure, not a steady income
- Where have you attended school? (And are you in school now? If so, how's it going?) Uni of Waterloo, masters in engineering, good- smart hard working
- Are you religious? Why/why not? Claims to be for parental approval but unsure
- What do you like to read? Watch on TV? Favorite movies? Music? Other art/entertainment? Read: books written by iconic women ie Oprah, Malala Yousaf, Scandal, music: r&b, indie
- How do you best express yourself? Through art
- Do you have art/music talent? Fine arts
- What is your taste in art/music? Semi-impressionistic landscape
- What is your most prized possession? Watch given by grandmother
- What is your greatest achievement? In high school volunteered as a tutor for children in middle school and really helped them learn and grow and loved doing it

Relationships:

- Are you in a romantic relationship? With whom? Describe them by choosing several of the details listed above. Jason, white, curly blonde-brown hair, freckles, born in Cambridge, working for father's carpentry business which will soon become his
- Are you satisfied with the relationship? Why/not? Yes, understands me, encourages me to do what's best for myself and not my parents, someone I can be myself around, has so much in common but so many different things too
- Do you want to be in a relationship? With whom, and why? If not, why not? Yes with him for above reasons
- How did your last relationship end? In the first year of college, the guy cheated
- What kind of friends do you have? Kind, occasionally obnoxious but really funny good people
- Name your best friend. Why is he/she your best friend? my roommate and friend since high school Medha, knows how I feel and what I'm going to say before I say it, someone I never get tired of talking to, understands my first gen problems
- Name the friend with who you are the least satisfied. What's the problem? Not the focus but one friend in her group is just overly obnoxious and it's annoying
- Do you have enemies / rivals? Name them, and briefly indicate the conflict you have with them

- What conflicts among your friends or enemies concern you the most? Not enemies but the major conflict in her life is between herself and her parents who know this fake version of her she has put out to please them, they don't know about her boyfriend or some of her friends because she knows they wouldn't approve, despite being an adult and having the ability to make her own decisions she has lasting guilt as a child of trying to constantly satisfy them because they have done so much for her under difficult circumstances and doesn't know how to balance her own happiness with theirs

Look deeper:

- What's weird or quirky about you? Why do you think you have this weirdness / quirkiness? Is there a story behind it others don't know about? She has an obsession with coffee, something she shares with her boyfriend, and wants to travel around the world to drink different kinds
- What do you wish others would understand about you? She wished the important people in her life knew her true dream of travelling and teaching while doing it, she is fluent in 5 languages and it's her true dream
- What don't you want others to know about you? (This could be a painful or embarrassing secret): it's not painful or embarrassing but she doesn't want her parents to find out about her white boyfriend, the central conflict of the story
- What do you worry about? Why? She worries they will find out and she will disappoint them, it's her constant fear
- Do you think you are a leader or a follower? Why? She wants to be a leader and when she is around her family who make her feel small often, they make her feel though her opinions are of value and don't matter making her more submissive around them
- Are you practical or a dreamer? Why? She has two sides that are in conflict with each other, to choose a practical way of life: be an engineer, marry someone her parents approve of, live in Toronto near her parents and have a stable life or be a dreamer and be a teacher, marry her boyfriend, live in as many interesting and culturally significant places as she wants and be happy
- What's your greatest fear – what's terrifying to you? Disappointing her parents and having them not trust respect or love her anymore due to the decisions she makes in her life
- What's your greatest regret in life? Not standing up for herself sooner and letting her parents control her life for 23 years
- Who has let you down? Have you told them? If you haven't, what would you say to them? Her parents have let her down by not trusting and putting messages in her head that tell her she isn't good enough so she feels like she needs to beat that for them, in order to be enough for them regardless of whether or not that makes her happy
- When have you let yourself down? Explain: she let herself down by not having the courage to stand up for herself earlier on and continuing to tolerate it
- Who do you need to stand up to? Have you ever stood up to anyone, or have you tried to stand up to this person? How does it go? She hasn't stood up to anyone because of her internal immigrant child issue of pleasing everyone around her, the guilt she feels from her parents having done everything to obtain a good life for her and all the troubles they went through to get her a good education and good life make her guilty for wanting something different from what they want for her but she needs to stand up for herself to her parents to obtain a life she truly wants
- What do you want most out of life? (By the end of your life, you want to have...?) she wants happiness but is too scared to admit that the life she has laid out for herself now will never ever make her happy
- What do you want most this year? This year she wants to travel to culturally significant places with her boyfriend
- What do you want most this week? This week she wants to tell her parents about her boyfriend and her dreams
- What do you want most today? To not have to marry the man arranged for her

- Choose at least 2 of the last 4 questions and explain: What's stopping you from getting what you want? The man arranged for her to be married to
- How do you think you need to change? She needs to change by gaining the strength and courage to fight for what SHE wants
- How do others think you need to change? Her parents think she needs to change in the sense of becoming a dutiful wife to a brown man while the people who truly know her want her to change and grow for herself and for the goals she truly wants obtain
- How do you feel about at least one of those people who thinks you need to change? She feels like she needs to tell them that she can't be the person they want her to change into.

Plot Map

Exposition:

- characters: Amira, Jason, Megha, Amira's parents and brother
- Setting: winter, Cambridge Ontario
- Conflict Introduced: boyfriend is white, parents don't know

Rising Action:

- Her parents tell her they have found someone she is arranged to marry right when she was about to tell them about her boyfriend.

Climax:

- She tells them about her boyfriend and that she doesn't want to marry the man arranged for her.

Falling Action:

- Her parents tell her she is making the wrong choice and should focus on what's right for her family but she realizes her happiness is most important and goes with her boyfriend and travels to Asia and Africa.

Conclusion:

- After 6 months of travelling they are in Cambodia when her mom calls to tell her they miss her and support her as long as she is happy.