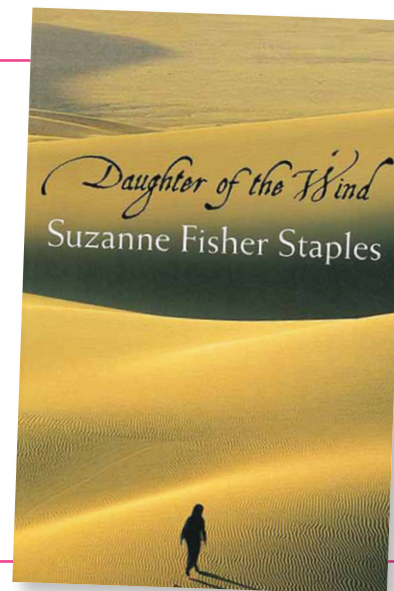


# DAUGHTER OF THE WIND

## Suzanne Fisher Staples



**Walker Books**  
(Lower secondary)

A powerful story about a young girl's struggle within the constraints of her nomadic society. Shabanu lives with her camel-herding family in Pakistan's Cholistan Desert. At 12, she is already betrothed, while her 13-year-old sister is about to be married. When tragedy strikes, Shabanu must choose between dreams of freedom and obligations to family and culture.

### BACKGROUND

The Cholistan Desert in eastern Pakistan is close to the border with India. The people in the desert live a semi-nomadic life, settling for periods of time and then having to move on in search of water and food for their animals. Because of the harsh conditions, camels are highly prized for transporting goods and also for trade. The isolation of the desert means local landowners can have a big influence on the people there.



### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What hints are there that Shabanu won't accept an arranged marriage as easily as her sister? **Possible answers:** She does 'male' jobs eg working with camels, she initially resists the chador, questions her father's authority eg protesting when Guluband is sold, envies Fatima who won't be forced to marry
2. What do you learn of women's position in this society at this time? **Possible answers:** Domestic duties eg cooking and serving tea, dressmaking etc. Sons preferred to daughters and prayed for. Sharma beaten by her husband for having a daughter. Bugti girl who is going to be killed by her relatives for eloping. Kulsum can't remarry after her husband's death although she is young
3. How did you feel about the ending?

### ROLE PLAY

In pairs take on the roles of Shabanu and Phulan and discuss your hopes for the future.

### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**Article 6:** Everyone has the right to be protected by the law.

**Article 16:** Every grown up has the right to marry and have a family if they want to. Men and women have the same rights when they are married, and when they are separated.

### FOLLOW UP WORK

Find out more:

If you want to follow the story of Shabanu, there are two more books by Suzanne Fisher Staples which tell her story: *Under the Same Stars* and *The House of Djinn*.

### FIND OUT MORE

Further resources for teaching around human rights can be found at: [www.amnesty.org.uk/education](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)