

## The characters

Look through the novel and decide in what ways the following characters are central to the narrative. For each character (or pair) create a spider diagram with notes and quotations. One for Maryam has been started for you as an example. Once you have drawn up a diagram for each one see if you can link each one to create an illustration of the threads of the narrative that Tyler has woven together.

Bitsy	Brad
<b>Ziba</b>	<b>Sami</b>
Susan and Jin-Ho	Maryam
<b>Dave</b>	<b>Connie</b>
Pat	Lou
<b>Mr and Mrs Hakimi</b>	<b>Bitsy's brothers and sisters-in-law</b>

The narrative often flashes back to Maryam's memories of emigrating from Iran, how she behaved at the time and her feelings now when she reflects, ' She saw herself now on that first visit home: her clothes chosen carefully for their Westernness ... She winced.' (p.21)

**Maryam**

A lot of the narrative is told 'through' Maryam. She comments, for example, on her daughter-in-law's behaviour, 'Ziba had a little crush on the Donaldsons, it seemed to Maryam.' (p.39)