



The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

Teacher's Guide

Written By Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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Synopsis

Chapter One

Author Amir, an immigrant from Afghanistan living in San Francisco, reflects on serious conflicts in his life dating to winter 1975. In December 2001, when Rahim Khan, a family friend, telephones from Pakistan, he offers Amir an opportunity to correct an injustice that Amir committed in 1976 at age twelve.

Chapter Two

Amir is a long-time friend of houseboy Hassan, a Hazara or member of a minority ethnic group. In 1963, Sofia Akrami died giving birth to Amir; the next year, Sanaubar deserted her crippled husband Ali and five-day-old son Hassan. As house servant to Baba, Ali hires a wetnurse who tends both boys. In 1975, Hassan endures taunts for his low-class status.

Chapter Three

Baba, a refined Pashtun, grows wealthy from investments he and partner Rahim Khan make in the export of carpets and the building of a restaurant and two drugstores. In 1968-1969, Baba erects an orphanage. He remains cool toward his son for lacking athletic ability. Amir suspects that Baba blames him for Sofia's death. Baba refutes the mullah's Islamic ideal of moral purity by drinking liquor and by doubting the existence of God. To Amir, Baba states that the worst sin is theft.

Chapter Four

Ali was orphaned after Pashtuns slew his parents. Baba's father, Judge Ghazi, fostered Ali, who grew up with Baba. Polio crippled Ali; a congenital paralysis distorted half his face. In Baba's house, Amir

grows up privileged and educated while Hassan remains illiterate and marred by a cleft lip.

In July 1973, Amir stops reading to Hassan and substitutes an original story that delights Hassan. Hassan's praise encourages Amir to become a writer. Rahim Khan admires Amir's literary skill, but Baba is unimpressed. Because of Baba's disappointment in Amir, the boy prefers Rahim Khan as a father figure.

Chapter Five

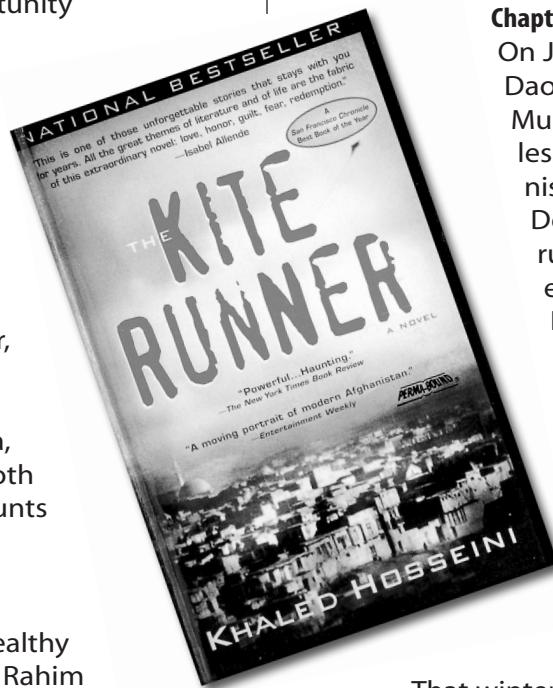
On July 17, 1973, rebels led by Daoud Khan overthrow Muhammad Zahir Shah in a bloodless coup. In April 1978, communists seize Afghanistan; in December 1979, Russian tanks rumble through Kabul. Assef, an elitist and hero worshipper of Hitler, admires Pashtuns and belittles Hazaras. He threatens Amir and Hassan with brass knuckles. Hassan rescues Amir by aiming a slingshot at the bully. On Hassan's tenth birthday, Baba hires a surgeon, Dr. Kuman, to repair Hassan's cleft lip.

Chapter Six

That winter, Amir and Hassan make kites out of paper, glue, and bamboo. They fly their kites from string permeated with glass shards for slicing an opponent's string. When Amir downs a competitor's kite, Hassan is the kite runner who retrieves the kill. In winter 1975, Baba goads Amir to win the four-district kite tournament.

Chapter Seven

The next day, Hassan serves Amir's breakfast and relates a dream about swimming in a lake to prove that there is no monster under the water. At 3:00 P. M., Baba sits on the roof with Rahim Khan and observes only six kites remaining in the tournament. After Amir downs his competitor's blue kite, Hassan pursues it as a combat prize.



In an alley Assef, Wali, and Kamal, waylay Hassan. While Amir watches, Assef rapes Hassan. The crime scene etches a deplorable scenario in Amir's mind. To conceal his cowardice, he ignores bloodstains on Hassan's corduroy pants. When the boys return home, Baba exults at Amir's tournament success. The praise enables Amir to push aside his failure to protect Hassan.

Chapter Eight

Hassan retreats into sleep. Ali questions Amir about the day of the competition, but Amir claims that nothing unusual occurred. The next day, Baba and a crowd of friends drive two hours toward Jalalabad. On the long ride, he boasts of his son's victory, but Amir vomits from thoughts of his shameful cowardice. After dinner, while the men sleep, Amir confesses his disloyalty to Hassan, but no one hears. The fitful journey begins his life struggle with insomnia.

Amir and Hassan no longer enjoy their favorite tree. Baba treats Amir like a man. During periods of solitude, Amir reads and weeps while Hassan continues serving him with humility and love. Amir causes a rift with Baba by suggesting that they hire new servants. Frustrated, Amir pelts Hassan with pomegranates, but Hassan refuses to fight.

In summer 1976, when Baba's admiration for Amir diminishes, the boy begins writing. Baba invites a crowd to his 13th birthday party. Among them is Assef, who gives Amir a biography of Hitler. After Amir retreats next door to a vacant lot, Rahim confides that he once had a Hazara girlfriend. To spare her Pashtun disapproval of Hazara peasants, Rahim did not marry her. Across the lot, Amir observes that Hassan serves drinks to Assef and Wali.

Chapter Nine

The next morning, Amir takes no pleasure in envelopes of cash and the watch and Schwinn bike his father gave him, which seem like blood offerings. Ali's gift to Amir is an illustrated edition of the Afghan epic *Shahnamah*. Two days after his birthday party, Amir stashes some money and his new watch under Hassan's mattress. After Amir reports the missing items to Baba, Hassan confesses the theft, but Baba forgives him. Ali learns the whole story of the rape and Amir's false accusations against Hassan. As the servants depart for Hazarajat, Baba stands sobbing in the rain while Amir remains visibly unmoved.

Chapter Ten

In March 1981, the Russian occupation forces Baba and Amir to slip out of Kabul and escape to Pakistan. They plan to join other refugees in boarding Karim's truck and transferring to Toor's truck for the dangerous crossing of the Khyber Pass into Peshawar. When a Russian on patrol demands sex from a young married passenger, Baba defies the soldier. A superior officer excuses the soldier's criminal behavior as the result of drug addiction. The young woman's husband kisses Baba's hand.

Because Toor's truck is disabled before the refugees pay for transport to Pakistan, they realize that they have been victimized by opportunists. In a basement in Jalalabad, the refugees hide from Russian patrols. Amir encounters Kamal, who has suffered a traumatic rape. Karim locates a fuel tanker and conceals the refugees inside. When the truck reaches Pakistan, Kamal's father shoots himself with Karim's pistol because the long ride in close quarters suffocated Kamal.

Chapter Eleven

In Fremont, California, Baba begins a new life. He finds a job at a gas station and defends his dignity by refusing food stamps. In spring 1983, he terrorizes an elderly Vietnamese couple who manage a grocery store because they demand identification before accepting a check. Amir suggests that Baba return to Peshawar, but Baba stoically refuses so Amir can receive a free education in California. That summer, when 20-year-old Amir earns a high

school diploma, Baba regrets that Hassan could not attend the graduation. Amir receives a used Ford as his father's gift.

Amir rankles his father by seeking a degree in English. In summer 1984, the two buy junk at garage sales and transport it by VW bus to San Jose each Sunday to sell at a flea market. In July, Amir encounters General Iqbal Taheri, who supports Amir's goal of becoming a writer. Gossip links the general's beautiful daughter Soraya with scandal.

Chapter Twelve

In fall, Amir manages to find Soraya alone at the general's stall. The two discuss *Wuthering Heights*, which she is reading. Jamila, the general's wife,

allows the young people to get acquainted. The general interrupts and sends kiwis and peaches to Baba as a means of protecting Soraya from the shame of speaking to a young bachelor. Amir discovers that Soraya prepares to be a teacher with coursework at Ohlone Junior College. He offers her his original short story. The general intercepts the story, tosses it into the trash, and upbraids Amir for committing a discourtesy to an unmarried woman.

Two weeks later, Dr. Amani diagnoses Baba's persistent cough as a fatal lung cancer. Baba rejects x-ray treatment. The first week in January, the spread of malignancy to his brain causes him to collapse at his stall. At his hospital room, visitors overwhelm Amir with stories of Baba's generosity. When Baba returns home, he initiates discussion with the general about a marriage between Soraya and Amir. In secret, she informs Amir that she and an Afghan ran away to Virginia. The general found her and ended the elopement. Amir wishes that he could confess his own shame about betraying Hassan.

Chapter Thirteen

Baba spends lavishly on a traditional Afghan wedding for his son. To assist in Baba's care, Soraya lives at Amir's home. While she soothes her father-in-law and cooks for him, she reads Amir's writing aloud. A month later, Soraya hosts a family dinner. That night, Baba dies. Mourners express their love for his good deeds.

After six months of marriage, Soraya confides her anger at Islamic sexism. She tells Amir that the general held her lover at gunpoint. After the general brought her back to California, he shamed her by shearing off her hair and immuring her at home. Soraya and Amir live in an apartment near the general and Jamila while Amir studies at San Jose State. During quiet moments while he works as a warehouse security guard, he writes a first novel. The next year, Soraya continues her own education. In summer 1989, Amir begins a five-city tour publicizing his book.

Because of the couple's childlessness, Soraya and Amir consult with Dr. Rosen, who is unable to account for their infertility. In March 1991, the couple discards a suggestion of adoption. Secretly, Amir blames their loss on his betrayal of Hassan. In summer, the couple settles in San Francisco at Bernal Heights.

Chapter Fourteen

In June 2001, Amir agrees to visit Rahim Khan, who promises Amir a chance to atone for wrongs against Hassan. Soraya remains in San Francisco to help her father recover from a broken hip.

Chapter Fifteen

In Peshawar a week later, Amir realizes that Rahim is dying from respiratory disease. Amir offers to take Rahim to California for medical care, but Rahim chooses to remain in Pakistan. He describes the extreme brutality of the Taliban. He recounts the return of Hassan to Baba's former residence.

Chapter Sixteen

In 1986, grief at Baba's death overcomes Rahim Khan. In a Hazara village outside Bamiyan, Rahim locates Hassan and his pregnant wife Farzana. At first, Hassan refuses to return to Kabul. After learning of Baba's death, Hassan sobs. He agrees to live at Baba's house in the servant's hut.

Farzana's baby daughter is stillborn. While she awaits a second birth, Sanaubar returns to Kabul. She tries to make up for abandoning Hassan. In winter 1990, she helps Farzana by delivering Hassan's son Sohrab. In the remaining four years of Sanaubar's life, Sohrab adores his grandmother, whom he calls Sasa. Hassan teaches Sohrab to read and to chase kites. In 1996, the Taliban halts kite flying because it distracts young Muslims from studying the Koran.

Chapter Seventeen

Hassan entrusts Rahim Khan with a letter to Amir. Six months later, Talib officials shoot Hassan and Farzana in the street on charges of trespassing on Baba's land. Left without parents at age 11, Sohrab goes to a Kabul orphanage. Rahim Khan begs Amir to retrieve Sohrab, who offers to pay for someone else to find the boy. A family secret explains Rahim's return to Amir's life. Rahim claims that Ali was sterile and that Baba sired Hassan. Amir is enraged that Baba and Rahim concealed the fact that Hassan was Amir's half-brother.

Chapter Eighteen

Amir recalls Baba's paternal affection for Hassan in annual birthday gifts and the plastic surgery to the boy's malformed lip. Amir realizes that Baba suffered the same secret shame that eats at Amir. Amir agrees to find Sohrab. Rahim predicts that

the rescue of Amir's nephew will redeem the family from lies and treachery.

Chapter Nineteen

Amir travels west in Farid's cab and suffers car-sickness. The driver lumps Amir in with the indifferent wealthy Afghans who ignore the poor Hazaras. Late in the day, Farid delivers Amir to the residence of Maryam and Wahid, Farid's brother. While the two guests eat dinner, the family's children go hungry. Amir counters Farid's insult by disclosing his mission to retrieve Hassan's son. The next morning, Amir places cash under the mattress to relieve the family's hunger.

Chapter Twenty

Amir finds Kabul desolate, treeless, and reeking of diesel fuel. Among beggars, he encounters Dr. Rasul, a former literature professor who recalls Sofia in the months preceding Amir's birth. At the orphanage, Amir tells Zaman, the director, about Sohrab's plight. Zaman identifies the boy as a skilled marksman with a slingshot. The director confesses that one of the Taliban hierarchy is a pedophile who targeted Amir's nephew the previous month. Farid tries to strangle the director for failing to protect orphans from a sexual predator.

Chapter Twenty-One

Amir's former home is safe from shelling because the Talib inhabit the neighborhood. That night, while sharing a shabby hotel room with Amir, Farid questions why a rich American cares about a Shi'a child. At a soccer game at Ghazi Stadium, Amir seeks a meeting with the official who sodomized Sohrab. At half time, Amir covers his eyes while fans stone two adulterers to death at the direction of the Taliban.

Chapter Twenty-Two

At the official's house in Wazir Akbar Khan, Amir ponders his childhood reputation for cowardice. At 3:00 P. M., armed guards escort Amir to his appointment with Assef, who victimized Hassan in 1975. Assef has grown into a monster who glories in leading a Hazara massacre and left the bodies for dogs to devour. In Amir's presence, Assef calls Sohrab, his costumed dancer, and caresses his body. Assef accounts for his despicable behavior as the result of brutality he endured in a communist jail. He believes that God exonerates him for sexual depravity.

Amir charges Assef with ethnic cleansing. Assef promises to relinquish Sohrab if Amir fights for him. Amir suffers serious injury from Assef's brass knuckles. Amir surprises his assailant by laughing at the unremitting battery that rids Amir of guilt for abandoning Hassan. Sohrab ends the brutal assault by aiming a metal ball from the leg of an overturned table into Assef's left eye. Sohrab and Amir hurry to Farid's truck. Amir collapses from internal injuries.

Chapter Twenty-Three

For two days in a Peshawar hospital, Amir's consciousness flickers. Dr. Faruqi diagnoses seven broken ribs and one punctured lung, a ruptured spleen, split lip, and fractured eye socket and jaw, which is wired shut. Farid discovers that Rahim Khan has departed Kabul to live out his remaining days alone. Rahim leaves a letter in which he repents of lying to Amir in childhood. Amir recovers and makes friends with Sohrab.

Amir learns that Baba tried to conceal his fatherhood of Hassan and to love both of his sons. Amir concludes that Baba hid his shame and compensated by doing good deeds, but Baba never relieved himself of guilt. Rahim leaves cash to pay Amir's hospital bill. To avoid the Taliban, Farid moves Amir to a hotel in Pakistan.

Chapter Twenty-Four

Sohrab enjoys a hotel room that offers a bathtub and television. While Amir rests, the boy leaves the room to repent of sin at the Shah Faisal Mosque and to ask God's forgiveness for the use of Sohrab's body as a sex toy. Amir assures Sohrab that God does not condemn him for Assef's sexual torture. Amir offers Sohrab a bit of comfort in the photo of Hassan with his son and explains how Baba loved both Amir and Hassan. To Sohrab's pleas not to return to the orphanage, Amir offers to take him to America.

In a phone call to Soraya, Amir divulges the secrets that gnaw at him. She looks forward to mothering Sohrab. At the American Embassy, Raymond Andrews, an immigration officer, needs death certificates from Hassan and Farzana to prove that Sohrab is parentless. Andrews sends Amir to Omar Faisal, an immigration lawyer, who doubts that Islamic law will allow adoption. Faisal advises Amir to return Sohrab to an orphanage for two years. In

terror, Sohrab slits his wrists in the privacy of the hotel bathroom. Amir is stunned at the boy's moribund state. Soraya later reports an irony—that Uncle Sharif can facilitate Sohrab's immigration on a humanitarian visa.

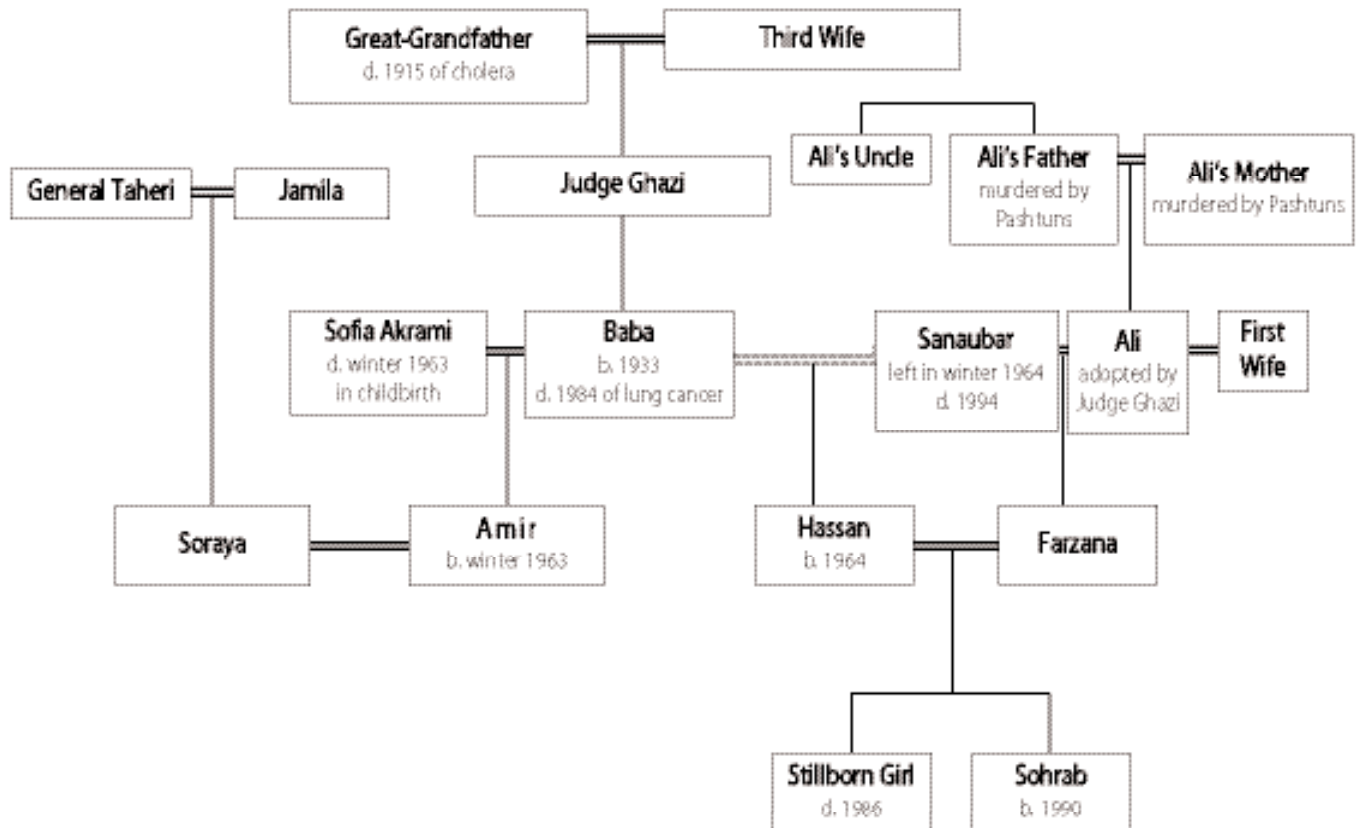
Chapter Twenty-Five

At the hospital, Amir struggles to breathe. On a makeshift prayer rug, he weeps, prays, and begs God to spare his nephew. Amir concludes that God exists in human sufferings rather than in domed mosques. Near dawn, Amir learns from Dr. Nawaz that Sohrab was revived twice and is recovering. Amir breaks a three-day bedside watch to return to his hotel room. The manager, who fears that an attempted suicide will harm business, asks Amir to leave. Amir reads to Sohrab from the *Shahnamah*, but the narrative fails to restore the boy's hope. Amir regrets terrifying his nephew with a possible stay in an orphanage. Sohrab prefers death to survival and retreats into silence.

In August 2001, Amir escorts Sohrab to San Francisco. After meeting Soraya, the boy says nothing. In his new room, he treasures the photo of his father and keeps it under the pillow. The next night, the general and Jamila come to dinner. Amir reports on Kabul's sordid condition under the brutal Taliban. Because the general insults Sohrab for being a Hazara, Amir orders his father-in-law to respect Sohrab as Amir's recently claimed nephew.

After Al Quaida operatives demolish the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, American planes bomb Afghanistan, ending the Taliban dictatorship. The general returns to military duty in Kabul. In March 2002, Amir's family joins other Afghans on national New Year's Day for an outing in the park. With a smile, Sohrab joins Amir in flying a kite. Amir serves as kite runner.

Character Geneology



Timeline of Fictonal and Historical Events

1933 King Nadir Shah is assassinated.

1963 Sofia dies giving birth to Amir.

1964 Sanaubar gives birth to Hassan, sired by Baba.
five days later Sanauba leaves home.

July 1968 Baba constructs an orphanage.

1973 Hassan admires Amir's original short story.

1974 Dr. Kuman repairs Hassan's cleft lip.

winter 1975 Baba praises Amir for winning a kite competition.

late afternoon Assef rapes Hassan in an alley.

next week Amir tells Ali that nothing unusual happened after the kite contest.

winter 1976 Baba invites a large company to celebrate Amir's 13th birthday.

later Amir retreats to a vacant lot next door.

next day Amir hides money and a watch under Hassan's mattress.

next day Hassan confesses to stealing from Amir. Baba forgives Hassan, but Ali insists on quitting their jobs and departing for Hazarajat.

July 17 Daoud Khan overthrows the monarchy of Muhammad Zahir Shah while the king is visiting Italy.

April 1978 Communists seize Afghanistan.

December 1979 The Mujahadin gains strength after Soviet forces invade Afghanistan.

March 1981 Baba and Amir join other refugees traveling by truck to Pakistan.

spring 1983 Baba terrorizes a Vietnamese couple at a grocery store in Fremont, California. Amir earns a high school diploma.

summer 1984 Baba and Amir collect junk to sell at the San Jose flea market.

July Amir meets Soraya, the daughter of Jamila and General Iqbal Taheri.

later Baba's cough is diagnosed as inoperable lung cancer.

next day Baba negotiates a marriage between Amir and Soraya.

a month later Soraya invites her family to dinner.

that night Baba dies.

later Mourners recall Baba's good deeds.

1986 Rahim Khan finds Hassan living outside Bamiyan.

next day Hassan and his wife Farzana move into the servants' hut house.

summer 1989 Amir publishes a first novel.

1990 Sanaubar returns to Baba's house and lives with Hassan.

winter Sanaubar helps to deliver Sohrab, Farzana and Hassan's second child.

March 1991 Amir and Soraya are diagnosed with unexplained infertility.

1994 Sanaubar dies.

1996 The Taliban seizes Afghanistan and bans kites.

later Taliban forces murder Farzana and Hassan outside Baba's old house. Sohrab enters an orphanage in Kabul.

May 2001 Assef molests Sohrab.

June Rahim Khan urges Amir to return to Pakistan.

later After learning that Hassan is his half-brother, Amir battles Assef for custody of Sohrab.

August Sohrab remains mute and sad in his new San Francisco home.

Sept. 11 Terrorists attack the Pentagon and destroy the World Trade Center.

October 7 American bombers rout the Taliban from Afghanistan.

March 2002 Sohrab smiles and flies a kite at an Afghan New Year celebration.

Author Sketch



A prominent first-time novelist, Dr. Khaled Hosseini surprised the American fiction market with his poignant semi-autobiographical story of family secrets and atonement, which is available in English and translation in Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Spain, and Sweden. Born in 1965 in Kabul, he is the first of the five children of an Afghan ambassador and a Persian mother who taught Farsi and history at a girls' high school.

Living in a comfortable villa at Wazir Akbar Khan in northern Kabul, Hosseini enjoyed a stable era in his country's history and longed to become a writer.

The author learned narrative method from radio stories, from storytelling sessions with his grandmother and father, and from readings of Mike Hammer mysteries and Ian Fleming spy novels. At the Cinema Park Theatre, Hosseini and his younger brother viewed hard-hitting movies featuring Clint Eastwood, Robert Mitchum, and John Wayne. Hosseini played soccer and flew kites competitively each winter. He began incubating his first novel with a kernel event—the Hosseini family's cook sodomized Moussa, a poor child living across the street.

On his father's diplomatic mission, Hosseini lived in Tehran and, from 1976 to 1980, in Paris. Because of instability in the Afghan government during a Russian invasion, in September 1980, the Hosseinis chose to leave France and seek political asylum in San Jose, California. Without their father's former connections, they, like other refugee professionals, lived in poverty and obscurity. The elder Hosseini rejected food stamps and worked at low-paying jobs to support the family.

Hosseini mastered English in high school about the time that the Taliban made headlines for random murder, bans on public entertainment, immurement of women, and the cessation of kite-flying contests. Hosseini advanced from an undergraduate degree from Santa Clara University to a medical degree from the University of California at San Diego. In 1996, he began practicing internal medicine at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. His father taught driving and supervised the distribution of welfare to Afghani refugees at San Jose's social services bureau.

In 1997, Hosseini followed cultural tradition by marrying an Afghan attorney, Roya Hosseini. The couple settled in a townhouse in Sunnyvale, California, and reared son Haris and daughter Farah, to whom the novel is dedicated. Hosseini perpetuated Afghan customs in food and music and spoke Farsi to his family. In 1999, he established a medical practice with Kaiser Permanente in the Mountain View section of the Bay area. He took pride in heading an Afghan clan and in exhibiting humanity in patient care and fictional characters. In his free time from office demands, he plays racquetball, writes short and long fiction, and reads the poems of the Sufi mystic Rumi, Hafez's *Divan*, Omar Khayyam's *The Rubaiyat*, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of*

Wrath, and the fiction of John Irving, Stephen King, Wally Lamb, George Orwell, and Mary Shelley.

After Hosseini ventured from composing Gothic horror and thrillers, he had difficulty selling his contemporary stories to *Esquire*, *Harper's*, and *The New Yorker*. Roya's father suggested that Hosseini develop the unpublished short story "The Kite Runner" into a novel, a project that stretched over 15 months. On a \$500,000 advance from Penguin Books, he began working each day from 5:00 to 8:00 A. M. and attended the Tamim Ansary Tuesday night writer's workshop in San Francisco for back-up. His publisher/editor, Celina "Cindy" Spiegel, urged him to shift Amir's American wife to the Afghan Soraya Taheri. In March 2002, he halted long enough for a two-week trip to Afghanistan. After publishing *The Kite Runner*, he began mapping out *Dreaming in Titanic City*, his second novel.

Critic's Corner

The first Afghan novel written in English, Khaled Hosseini's bestselling morality story *The Kite Runner* describes the treachery of a teenage Afghan and his protracted search for redemption into adulthood. Over 25 years of political upheaval in Kabul, the narrative portrays protagonist Amir's longing for self-respect and his willingness to rescue his nephew Sohrab from the Taliban as a debt owed to Hassan. The quest begins with a dangerous mission to a squalid city orphanage and a challenge against an old enemy, Assef, a perverted child exploiter and official of the Taliban. Amir shucks his image as a coward by undergoing a battering from hand-to-hand combat against Assef, who wields brass knuckles. The result of the pilgrimage to Kabul is the restoration of Amir's religious faith. By accepting the shortcomings of his father and by adopting Hassan's orphaned son Sohrab, Amir rids himself of insomnia and internal punishment and builds a more satisfying family life with his wife Soraya.

In seven months, Hosseini's semi-autobiographical novel, an addition to American immigrant literature, sold a half million copies and informed readers about a part of Asia that most knew little about. Readers applauded the thrilling plot and subtextual elements revealing immigrant struggles to assimilate. The crux of the novel is racism, the unbending caste system that subjugates

Hazaras to perpetual enslavement to Pashtuns. Establishing continuity of tone and action are Amir's self-castigation for cowardice and betrayal of a friend. The motifs interweave Amir's thoughts and dreams, limiting his contentment in California. Hosseini culminates the story with exoneration for Amir through surrogate fatherhood of his nephew Sohrab.

During a ten-city promotional tour, Hosseini made 100 appearances and, on July 27, interviewed on National Public Radio with reporter Liane Hansen. In May 2003, the publisher released a paperback version of *The Kite Runner* and an eight-cassette audio edition read by the author. Contributing to public notoriety of Hosseini's first fiction was its choice by the Connecticut Library Consortium for the One Book, One Region program. In 2003, DreamWorks and Wonderland Films began outlining the novel as a screenplay.

Hosseini credits independent booksellers with word-of-mouth promotion of *The Kite Runner*. In 2004, Borders Books presented the author an Original Voices Award. He received an ALA/YALSA Alex Award, which listed the novel among the top ten adult books for teenagers. In November 2004, author Prue Leith selected the books as a New Statesman's Critics' Choice of the Year. Community read-ins, book clubs, and classroom assignments of Hosseini's novel continue to bring new audiences.

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General Objectives

1. To understand the impact of dictatorship on a nation
2. To account for the success of immigrants in low-paying jobs
3. To interpret shifts in social and religious customs
4. To contrast causes of bias, genocide, and sexual immorality
5. To discuss the themes of redemption and renewed innocence
6. To explain the harm of family secrets
7. To analyze father-son relationships
8. To describe attitudes toward arranged marriage
9. To describe the atmosphere of a city under siege
10. To analyze the roles of doctors, counselors, and religious leaders

Specific Objectives

1. To explain how Amir and Baba perceive their sins and losses
2. To analyze the symbolism of the title
3. To summarize Baba's importance to family and community
4. To account for Assef's brutality toward helpless people
5. To justify Amir's love of his nephew
6. To predict how Soraya and Amir will form a family with Sohrab
7. To summarize injustice under the communists and the Taliban
8. To discuss long-term implications of Baba and Sanaubar's adultery
9. To describe the roles of Farid, Ali, Sanaubar, Soraya, and General Taheri
10. To list events caused by hatred, suspicion, and revenge

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Khaled Hosseini's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

Anti-hero: a protagonist or central figure who lacks the usual heroic qualities of an admirable person or leader, particularly skill, grace, honesty, courage, and truth. Amir exemplifies the behaviors of a non-hero because he is dominated by faulty character traits, particularly guilt, shame, and regret. He redeems himself in part by reclaiming Hassan's orphaned son, by defending Sohrab against racist slurs, and by supplying Soraya with a child to complete their family.

Existentialism: a loosely defined philosophy that contrasts the random nature of the universe with the inadequacy of human control or intelligence. The novel stresses that people like Ali and his parents, Sanaubar, Hassan, Farzana, and Sohrab are hapless victims of a political, social, and religious hegemony that discounts Hazaras as less than human. Amir's spontaneous call on God at the hospital indicates that Amir wants to believe that an all-powerful, all-loving deity can and will intervene and rescue Sohrab from death. With renewed spirituality, Amir alters his thinking and reinvigorates his childish innocence by kite running for Sohrab.

Sociological Novel: reform literature that uses character and action to delineate a social problem. The *Kite Runner* studies the nature of injustice toward refugees from Afghanistan who immigrate to the United States. The impact of unjust laws and repressive regimes forces people like Baba's family to flee from home much as Amir's false accusation against Hassan forces Ali's family to seek asylum in Hazarajat. In both cases, characters deserve better than uprooting and loss of security.

The Importance of Setting

The milieu of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* introduces Western readers to two views of Afghanistan, before and after the fall of the monarchy, invasion by Russians, and the emergence of the Taliban. By picturing an idyllic childhood for Amir and retreats to a symbolic tree of friendship, the author portrays innocence before it is marred by betrayal. The narrative creates pathos for Amir's loss after the family servants depart and Amir and Baba flee into Pakistan by tanker truck. The wayside predations of Russian soldiers mar the beauty of the drive through the historic Khyber Pass toward freedom in Peshawar. Similarly, in Islamabad, Amir and Sohrab are so concerned with the boy's guilt at being sexually abused that the two offer little comment on the beauty and importance of the Shah Faisal Mosque to which Sohrab goes for forgiveness.

More important than physical setting is the emotional climate that disrupts Amir's childhood. Without knowing why Baba is disappointed in him, Amir struggles to alter his behavior and outlook to suit Baba's ideals of the perfect son. After learning the truth from Rahim Khan about Hassan's parentage, Amir can relive some of the dismaying scenes of his boyhood from Baba's point of view, especially Baba and Ali sitting on the roof and watching Afghan boys from four districts competing in the winter kite competition. By viewing Baba as a man in need of redemption from secret sin, Amir appreciates his father's humanity and rids himself of some of the guilt that accrues from Amir's disloyalty to Hassan. On a breezy day in a California park on the East Bay peninsula, Amir's kite flying with Sohrab returns both characters to simple pleasures common to Afghan boys. The outing, which

begins with rain and brightens to blue skies, allows both to enjoy innocence and pleasure as a preface to a father-son relationship.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about Afghanistan, Islam, the Taliban, racism, refugees, immigrants, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Articles

Greimel, Hans. "Orphans of War Join Hands at Camp," *Toronto Star* (10 August 2002): A18.

Audiocassette

Concentrated Americans, National Asian American Telecommunications Association
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Books

The Endless Steppe, Esther Hautzig
Hiroshima, John Hersey
Nisei Daughter, Monica Sone
Pashtun Tales from the Pakistan-Afghan Frontier, Aisha Ahmad
The Promised Land, Mary Antin
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rostam, Sbolqasem Ferdowsi
Year of Impossible Goodbyes, Sook Nyul Choi
Zlata's Diary, Zlata Filipovic

Filmstrip

Self-Fulfillment, Guidance Associates

Internet

Exploring Ancient World Cultures: Islam
<http://eawc.evansville.edu/ispag.htm>.
Islamic References
<http://www.sijpa.org>.
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Map

Southern Asia, National Geographic

Multimedia Kit

Lessons on Asia, Social Studies School Service
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Plays

I Remember Mama, John Van Druten
The King and I, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein

Peshawar, Pakistan to Fremont, California



Poems

"The Man He Killed," Thomas Hardy
"Sanctuary," Donald Davidson

Reference Books

Afghanistan: A Short History of its People and Politics, Perennial
Islam in America, Columbia University Press
The Origins of the Koran: Classic Essays on Islam's Holy Book, Ibn Warraq
Race and Prejudice in America Today, Knowledge Unlimited
The Taliban: War and Religion in Afghanistan, Zed Books

Short Stories

"Désirée's Baby," Kate Chopin
"Good Country People," Flannery O'Connor
"Homeland," Barbara Kingsolver
"The Lagoon," Joseph Conrad
"The Scarlet Ibis," James Hurst
"The Shawl," Jeanne Murray Walker

Slides

Characters in Crisis, Center for Humanities
East Meets West, Guidance Associates

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Center for the Humanities
No Man Is an Island, Center for the Humanities

Video

Dr. Zhivago
Far and Away
Farewell to Manzanar
Fiddler on the Roof
The Good Earth
Les Misérables
Wuthering Heights

Media Versions of Hosseini's Work

Audiocassette

The Kite Runner [unabridged], Simon & Schuster, 2003,
narrated by the author

Audio CD

The Kite Runner [abridged], Simon & Schuster, 2003,
narrated by the author
The Kite Runner [unabridged], Simon & Schuster, 2005,
narrated by the author

Download

The Kite Runner, Amazon.com

Large Print

The Kite Runner, Center Point, 2003

Related Reading

Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune* and *The House of the Spirits*

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*

William E. Barrett, *Lilies of the Field*

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*

Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*

Michael Dorris, *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*

Nawal El Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*

David Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars*

James Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston,

Farewell to Manzanar

Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream"

Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams* and *The Bean Trees*

Mark Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*

Ruthann Lum McCunn, *Thousand Pieces of Gold*

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Suzanne Fisher Staples, *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*

Amy Tan, *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in *The Kite Runner* should include these aspects:

Themes

- affluence
- cultural bias
- upheaval
- immigration
- common labor
- family
- racism
- child abuse
- loss
- justice
- atonement

Motifs

- coping with family financial setbacks
- understanding the refugee mentality
- loving and losing

- assuming the role of rescuer
- comprehending the pedophile
- coping with emotional trauma

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. She ran off with a clan of traveling singers and dancers. (Chapter 2, p. 6)
(Amir indicates that Sanaubar's abandonment of husband, child, and home for a frivolous life is a sin worse than death. In a patriarchal country under conservative religious rule, obedience is expected of women, who live under the husband's control much as children live under parental control. She atones by providing mothering for her grandson, a suitable redemption for a woman who betrays her role as wife and mother.)
2. I read that my people, the Pashtuns, had persecuted and oppressed the Hazaras. (Chapter 2, p. 9)
(The persecution of the minority Hazara makes them inferior to the Pashtun, whose Pashtu language and Sunni faith take precedence over the Hazara dialect and Shi'a faith. The only way for the Hazara to survive is through servitude to their cultural superiors.)
3. So Baba proved them all wrong by not only running his own business but becoming one of the richest merchants in Kabul. (Chapter 3, p. 15)
(Hosseini builds irony out of Baba's defiance of his father, Judge Ghazi, who expected his son to become a lawyer. Baba's great disappointment as a parent stems from the failure of Amir to live up to fatherly expectations. Both Baba and Amir suffer emotional distress in rebellion against the older male generation. The narrative implies that, had Sofia lived, she might have served as a go-between to lessen Baba's frustration and to exonerate Amir for choosing a literary career.)
4. Every other sin is a variation of theft. (Chapter 3, p. 17).
(Baba's guidance to Amir overturns the teaching of the Mullah's by summarizing morality under one broad heading, a chop-logic refutation of detailed Islamic laws. The author implies that Baba suffers secret guilt for the theft of Ali's wife. Ironically, Baba's demonizing of thieves generates terror in Amir that he has stolen Baba's wife by killing her during childbirth.)

5. I escaped my father's aloofness, in my dead mother's books. (Chapter 3, p. 19)
(The absence of a mother unbalances Amir's life. He suffers from a withdrawn, disapproving father who grieves in secret for Sofia and who blames himself for siring Hassan. In retreat from constant criticism, both verbal and implied, Amir becomes bookish like Sofia. He bears promise of a literary career even in boyhood.)
6. We saw *Rio Bravo* three times, but we saw our favorite Western, *The Magnificent Seven*, thirteen times. (Chapter 4, p. 26)
(From early boyhood, Amir and Hassan come under the influence of American culture through Western movies that feature tough-guy roles. Hollywood's domination of Asian theaters suggests how Afghans gain a distorted view of American life.)
7. I wasn't just slower than Hassan but clumsier too; I'd always envied his natural athleticism. (Chapter 6, p. 53)
(Hassan's skill at running to retrieve kites suggests one of the reasons that Baba treats him well and weeps when Hassan and Ali depart from service to the household. Knowing that Hassan inherited Baba's most treasured traits adds to the growing wedge between Baba and Amir, his contemplative, less athletic son.)
8. Little shapes . . . twisted, merged, formed a single image: Hassan's brown corduroy pants discarded on a pile of old bricks in the alley. (Chapter 8, p. 84)
(Amir's problem with car sickness stems from a day of praise on the drive to Jalalabad with family friends. While Baba brags about Amir's win of the four-district kite tournament, Amir punishes himself for allowing bullies to attack and sodomize Hassan. Contributing to Amir's malaise are mental pictures of sexual violence and chronic insomnia.)
9. Strangely, I was glad that someone knew me for who I really was; I was tired of pretending. (Chapter 9, p. 106)
(Throughout the narrative, Amir longs to confess his guilt of cowardice and betrayal. Seeing hatred in Ali's face gives Amir a small measure of relief that someone in authority knows of Amir's evil deeds.)
10. This isn't you, Amir, part of me said. You're gutless. It's how you were made. (Chapter 22, p. 275)
(While attempting to rescue Sohrab from the orphanage, Amir fears the possibility of death and of making Soraya a widow. He retreats to the childhood self-image of Amir the coward, Amir

the disappointing son.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Motivation

1. What causes dissension in Baba's home?
(Without stating a preference for Hassan, whom he sired out of wedlock with Sanaubar, his foster brother's wife, Baba gives Amir the impression that he is disappointed in Amir's accomplishments. Baba retreats to his private den with Rahim Khan and ignores Amir's attempts at success, especially writing stories. When Baba identifies theft as the worst sin, Amir wrongly assumes that his father hates him because Sofia died giving birth to Amir.

Amir tries so hard to please Baba by winning the four-district winter kite competition that Amir abandons Hassan to Assef and his hooligans Wali and Kamal, then lies to Ali about what happened to Hassan in the alley. At times, Rahim Khan overcompensates for Baba's aloofness and causes Amir to wish that Rahim had been his father. After Baba's death, it is Rahim who sets matters right among family members, but even then, he waits until his own death is imminent before divulging that Amir has a half-brother and a nephew who needs rescue from a Kabul orphanage.)

Setting

2. Describe changes in Kabul.
(In the blissful years of Amir's boyhood, Kabul flourished with peace and contentment. Amir and Hassan climb poplar trees and choose a friendship tree as a destination for daily outings. After the bloodless coup by which Daoud Khan overthrew Muhammad Zahir Shah on July 17, 1973, Afghanistan rapidly loses its control over conservative religion and brutal dictatorship. First the Russians drive tanks into the city, then the Taliban takes over. Under Islamic paranoia and fascist patrols through the city, women are not safe from physical assault while shopping in the market. Officials denude the streets of trees; the smell of diesel fuel indicates reliance on generators for power. Men like Dr. Rasoul, a respected university professor, are reduced to beggary. Children like Sohrab and the children of widows huddle in orphanages and endure the sexual predations of Assef in exchange for Talib donations of food and clothing for the inmates. The destruction, terror, squalor, and suffering among the poor makes Amir feel like a tourist in his hometown.)

Character Development

3. How does Amir change over time?
(Amir grows up insecure without a mother and fearful that he will never please his father. From contentment with an affluent lifestyle, Amir tries to substitute money and privilege for character. He becomes haughty and overbearing toward Hassan, his houseboy. Even though the two boys grew up like brothers, Amir feels compelled to belittle, trick, and degrade Hassan. After the afternoon of the four-district winter kite competition, guilt forces Amir's rudeness inward and turns cruelty into self-abuse. After lying about Hassan's theft and forcing Ali and Hassan to leave for Hazarajat, Amir watches stoically from the house as Baba stands weeping in the rain. Amir falls farther in his father's esteem.)

The contretemps between father and son alters after the two flee Afghanistan and Pakistan and make a new home in Fremont, California. Without money or influence, Baba humbles himself with unskilled labor at a gas station while Amir goes to public school. As Amir acculturates to the United States and increases his skill at English, he supplants Baba in authority. By the time that lung cancer overtakes Baba, Amir seems like his father's caretaker and decision maker rather than like an obedient son. Amir's final act of obedience accedes to Baba's demand that Amir conduct a traditional courtship and properly arranged betrothal. Within weeks of the marriage, Baba dies in his sleep.

Marriage alters Amir, who has never known female tenderness. He loves Soraya and longs for children. After pursuing a career as a writer and publishing a first novel, he answers Rahim's call to atone for the betrayal of Hassan that occurred a quarter century earlier. The heavy burden of guilt that robs Amir of sleep and self-respect falls away after he faces Assef in a fistfight for possession of Sohrab. The change in Amir precedes the challenge of physical recovery from serious rib and cranial fractures, rehabilitation of Sohrab from rape and attempted suicide, and establishment of Sohrab in California as a beloved son. By the time that Sohrab accepts the kite at the Afghan New Year celebration in the park, Amir has taken Hassan's place as kite runner, a rejuvenation of boyish innocence and release of class snobbery and racism toward the Hazara.)

Historical Milieu

4. How does the novel relieve American inexperience with Afghan history?
(Hosseini does a good job of describing Afghan customs and religious beliefs by picturing the behaviors of Pastun and Hazara citizens. By shifting abruptly from Afghanistan after the rapid decline in government, the narrative attests to total disruption of an affluent lifestyle no longer available to self-made men like Baba and Rahim Khan. Ironically, in place of an imported Schwinn bicycle and American Westerns in the theaters, Amir experiences American life firsthand in Fremont, California, by

buying junk at yard sales and selling it at the San Jose flea market. Hosseini indicates that refugees like the elderly Vietnamese couple at the market and Baba and his son must tolerate an unresponsive bureaucracy that loses Baba's medical charts and distributes food stamps without concern for the emotional sufferings of newcomers to America. Meanwhile, under codes of conduct brought by Asian immigrants to their new homes, men like General Iqbal Taheri continue to dominate wives and daughters. Coercive gossip devalues Soraya for eloping with her lover. Shoppers at the flea market stare as Soraya engages Amir, a bachelor, in open conversation.

As the Taliban oppresses Kabul, civic-minded couples like Soraya and Amir support worthwhile charities. The good-hearted Rahim Khan redeems the wrongs of the past by trying to relieve Sohrab's suffering in a Kabul orphanage. Amir is unaware of the dire situation of the poor and powerless until he returns to Kabul to see for himself how rapidly Afghan life has been depleted by a ruthless dictatorship. The stoning of a pair of adulterers at the soccer stadium and the sexual enslavement of children like Sohrab at the orphanage indicates that depravity has destroyed the civilizing forces that once made Kabul a great world city.)

Theme

5. How does wrongdoing escalate?
(Baba's betrayal of Ali, his foster brother, follows Sofia's death in childhood. By committing adultery with Sanaubar, Baba sets in motion two generations of wrongful behavior. He is unable to parent Amir with compassion or to substitute fatherly love for a two-parent upbringing. The lavish birthday party and the purchase of a bike and watch mean little to Amir, who bears his own secret guilt for cowardice and for betraying Hassan.)

As a means of sweeping aside past faults, Amir attempts to rid the house of Ali and Hassan in exchange for new servants. Baba's response shocks Amir, who does not anticipate that Baba will weep as Ali and Hassan depart unaided for Hazarajat. Because Baba never confesses his guilt, he leaves Amir with a burden of shame and self-contempt that only Rahim Khan can alleviate. Because the Taliban murders Hassan and Farzana on the false charge of trespassing at Baba's former home, Amir has no choice but to locate their orphaned son Sohrab and to seek redemption by being a worthy father/uncle to the boy. The kite in the final scene suggests that both Amir and Sohrab have found reclamation in their new relationship as parent and child.)

Interpretation

6. Why does Hosseini choose an unassuming title for the novel?
(The title creates an image of childhood's freedom to chase an airborne kite and enjoy the outdoors with other children. The

runner's job suggests the work of a menial, who accompanies the kite flier and retrieves the kites that fall during competition. As the seriousness of the plot impacts the reader, kite flying suggests the contentment of a wealthy Pashtun family with the status quo.

After political corruption replaces the ideal, Baba and Amir must seek their ideals in a new country. The burden that Amir conceals in his guilty heart keeps the loyal kite flier alive in his imagination long after the execution of Hassan and wife Farzana in the street before Baba's former home. Amir loses sleep because he is unable to rid himself of cowardice and shame for leaving Hassan to the attack of Assef, Wali, and Kamal. Hosseini revives Hassan in the boyish talents of Sohrab, who can shoot a slingshot and fly kites like his father. The narrative implies that life gives Amir a second chance at being good once more. By returning to Kabul, facing the bully in adulthood, and rescuing Sohrab, Amir pays the price of delayed punishment in physical and emotional pain. Amir offers welcome and acceptance to Sohrab, the nephew whom the Taliban has orphaned. Sohrab's emotional trauma from sodomy mirrors Hassan's malaise after suffering the same crime. By saving the child from a vicious political quagmire and potential death in the custody of a pedophile, Amir unloads a quarter century of guilt from his heart and offers his childless wife a boy to mother. Symbolically, Amir becomes Sohrab's kite runner as the boy launches a symbol of hope into the sky.)

Conflict

7. How does Hosseini account for brutality in the world?
(The political situation that allows a monster like Assef to rise to authority attests to a lethal imbalance in Afghan society in the aftermath of a lapsed monarchy. Without fear of consequences for cruel actions, Assef can act out his pathological hatreds of the underdog. Just as he admired Hitler in boyhood, Assef grows up to believe in a master race, a Pashtun hegemony that exonerates him for slaughtering Hazaras and leaving their corpses for dogs to eat. The slaying of Farzana and Hassan follows the Taliban's seizure of abandoned homes of the wealthy, who flee in terror of governmental collapse. Assef grows bolder and more spiritually perverse as he sodomizes children from the orphanage and makes a public show of stoning adulterers, a depraved form of punishment that most nations abandoned in antiquity. Hosseini attests through his novel that a cruel dictatorship like the Taliban deserves destruction.)

Atmosphere

8. How does Hosseini enhance suspense?
(Amir's return to Kabul creates suspense from his moral drive to rescue Sohrab and the counterpoint of mental punishment branding Amir a coward. The mounting evidence of a pseudo-religious power structure coupled with the sight of lopped trees

and pathetic beggars, the participation of Afghans in a public stoning, and the smell of diesel fuel hints that a terrible confrontation awaits Amir. Boosting the ominous atmosphere to sheer terror is Zaman's report that a Taliban pedophile has his pick of children from the orphanage.

By the time that Amir arrives at Assef's quarters, the anticipation of a showdown with a bully-turned-monster offers Amir little hope that he can retrieve his nephew from a child torturer. The author intersperses the fistfight with the unexpected—a catharsis of guilt and self-loathing that causes Amir to laugh at blows from Assef's brass knuckles. Amir's relief of shame for leaving Hassan unprotected offsets Assef's delight in pummeling an old enemy. After Sohrab brings the battle to a close with one gold ball sent from his slingshot into Assef's left eye, the atmosphere settles into a dismal recovery period in which Amir endures treatment from seven broken ribs, a punctured lung, injured spleen, and serious cranial fractures. The situation worsens after Amir forces himself too soon from a hospital bed, then sinks into spiritual despair after Sohrab's attempted suicide. The fight for custody ends with the intervention of Uncle Sharif in obtaining a humanitarian visa for Sohrab.)

Author Purpose

9. Why does the novel appeal to readers?
(Hosseini provides The Kite Runner with an immediacy that comes from a native Afghan who knows firsthand how fellow citizens have suffered during the political upheaval that turned a former monarchy into a dictatorship. The depiction of a father and motherless son at odds with themselves and each other imparts a universal theme of domestic unrest worsened by civil chaos. Hosseini concludes both the national crisis and Amir's emotional wretchedness with a second chance, an opportunity to do good and to restore order. Through Rahim Khan, a steady, loving father figure, Amir relives his father's unhappiness and recognizes a shared disability, the guilt and shame that both father and son bear in secret. With the rescue of Sohrab, Amir restores some of Afghanistan's innocence and joy. Hosseini retreats from trivializing the ending by indicating a long period of rehabilitation before Sohrab's reclamation. An asset to the boy's recovery is Soraya's role as mother and the childless family's completion with their nephew/son. The author endears himself to the reader by dedicating his work to Afghan children.)

Structure

10. Why does the novel require a framework?
(Amir begins his narrative with the call from Pakistan that offers him a chance for atonement. Hosseini uses the flashback method to enlarge on Amir's quarter century of misery, a hovering shame that dims the joy of a new life in California and marriage to Soraya. As the narrative reveals truths about all the characters, Hosseini recaps a series of wrongs during happier

times in Afghanistan. As though decay eats away at a social structure that places haughty Pashtuns over subservient Hazaras, Baba's household gradually falls apart, beginning with Sofia's death in childbirth and Sanaubar's abandonment of her love child sired by Baba.

The constant service of Ali and Hassan to Baba and Amir abrades the hurt in Baba that he must conceal from the world a precious son as houseboy. Baba's gifts to Hassan fail to make up for the boy's illiteracy and for Amir's jealousy that Hassan receives Baba's approval. Even on Amir's graduation day, Baba's thoughts turn to the absent son. In the falling action, the importance of Chapter One takes on greater meaning after Rahim Khan identifies Hassan as Baba's child and Amir's brother. The emotional burden on Amir goads the action to its suspense-filled ending and holds until the last page the reward that Amir earns for choosing the honorable route out of sorrow and shame.)

How Language Works

Khaled Hosseini reveals a poetic skill that balances plain-spoken narrative with passages rich in symbol and metaphor.

1. In the opening chapter, Amir recalls being shut out of Baba's smoking room, a male bastion where men discuss "politics, business, soccer." Amir recalls begging to join male company, but hearing his father's retort, "This is grown-ups' time. Why don't you go read one of those books of yours?" The expulsion of Amir from his father's inner sanctum parallels the closing of Baba's heart to a son who disappoints the father by choosing literature over sports. Amir recalls, "I'd sit by the door, knees drawn to my chest."
2. Hosseini compounds Amir's cowardice in Chapter Eight in another male-dominant setting in which men visiting Islamabad sleep off the effects of heavy eating and drinking. Amir waits until all is quiet to confess, "I watched Hassan get raped." With unusual insight for a 13-year-old, Amir realizes "the nature of my new curse: I was going to get away with it." He analyzes Hassan's dream of the monster in the lake and pictures himself as the monster.
3. In Chapter 17, Hosseini sets about redeeming his protagonist from an unhappy life generat-

ed by a serious character flaw. To Rahim Khan's request that Amir find Sohrab, Amir replies like the spoiled little rich boy he was in childhood: "Why me? Why can't you pay someone here to go? I'll pay for it if it's a matter of money." Amir's values require a jolt from Rahim, the father figure who observed Amir's unsatisfactory character development in childhood. Rahim repeats Baba's words, "A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who can't stand up to anything."

4. In Chapter 25, Amir fleshes out another side of his stunted character by bowing to God after 15 years of denying spirituality. In the suffering of people in the hospital corridors, Amir finds proof that "there is a God, there always had been." Amidst hovering mortality, Amir expresses his need of a higher power, a rescuer who can intercede for Sohrab. Feeling engulfed by old sins, Amir looks out on a starless sky as "A sorrow as black as the night outside invades me."
5. In the novel's last lines, Hosseini describes the rebirth of childish innocence in Sohrab and in his uncle/father Amir. The smile that lights Amir's face restores him to the Afghanistan that he loved in boyhood. He compares the smile to the Valley of Panjsher, a revered avenue of winding paths and river through which the nation's enemies departed Kabul in defeat.

Across the Curriculum

Religion

1. Make a wall chart of the duties of a mullah, including the teaching of young children about Islamic morality and pure living.
2. Compose a speech explaining why some Pashtuns belittle the Hazara as worthless Shi'a.
3. Write a paragraph summarizing the importance of Shari'a to Islamic communities.

Drama

1. Draw stage settings for a dramatization of climbing into an oil tanker, celebrating the Afghan New Year, arranging a formal

betrothal, watching a four-district kite competition from a rooftop, eloping to Virginia, breaking glass in a Vietnamese grocery store, visiting the Shah Faisal Mosque in Pakistan, spending the night at Maryam and Wahid's house, praying at the hospital, holding ruffians at bay with a slingshot, seizing Karim's pistol, and retreating from Kabul to Hazarajat. Supply sketches of costumes and props, such as bamboo and paper kites, glass-permeated string, Afghan foods, refugee luggage, lawn chairs, slingshot and stones, mattress, folded sheet, weapons, glass, cash, check, and watch.

2. Create a storyboard account of Amir's rescue mission to Kabul. Indicate the location of Farid's cab, Maryam and Wahid's house, the sports arena and stoning of two adulterers, Zaman's office at the orphanage, Assef's home, Farid's truck, and Amir's hospital room.
3. Perform a shadow tableau or bag puppet performance of the story of Sohrab and Rostam or other episodes from the *Shahnamah*.

Education

1. Role-play Hassan's training of Sohrab. Include reading, writing, religion, and kite running.
2. Propose curriculum for a class to teach Afghan refugees about life in America. Include details about preparing for citizenship, banking, buying land, buying from yard sales and selling at flea markets, providing identification for check cashing, purchasing a used car, arranging a wedding, earning a high school diploma, signing up for food stamps, and seeking treatment for a terminal illness.
3. Brainstorm ways of preparing Sohrab for traveling through international airports and how to cope if he should be separated from Amir. Suggest carrying identification written in English and seeking help from Traveler's Aid, airport security, or immigration officials.
4. Compose a newspaper feature on the value of free ESL classes for immigrants.

Speech

1. Organize a discussion of racism and other forms of persecution, classism, and exclusion.

Answer these basic questions: What makes people belittle or demonize identifiable groups, especially members of a minority race or religion? How does Amir defuse the tense situation created by General Taheri's insult of Sohrab? How do editorials, speeches, books, plays, monuments, music, murals, sports, and holiday celebrations help quell hatred and prejudice?

2. Compose a verbal tour of Kabul. Express the importance of Islam to city life and customs. Contrast the current status of buildings and businesses, royal compounds, and public squares with the city's beauty in the late 60s.
3. Outline a speech honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the human rights commission of the United Nations and established standards for international aid to orphans, displaced persons, widows, the sick and wounded, victimized minorities, and refugees.

Cinema

1. View films about refugees and immigrants, such as *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *The Good Earth*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *The House of Sand and Fog*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, and *Far and Away*. Compare the movies' settings, themes, and dialogue to those of *The Kite Runner*. Comment on the interplay of authorities with people of different ethnic, religious, social, educational, and professional backgrounds.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on blood loss, respiratory distress, severe trauma, and shock. List first aid, treatment, and complications for a variety of bone and soft tissue wounds. Account for the importance to the story of Amir's fight with Assef and of Sohrab's refusal to speak after recovery from rape trauma and attempted suicide.
2. Discuss immediate needs of rape victims, particularly young children at the Kabul orphanage. Project long-term care for a traumatized child like Hassan, Kamal, or Sohrab.

Geography and Culture

1. Create a mural or web site on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Note the sharp separation of classes into Pashtuns and Hazaras, Shi'ites and Sunnis, Talib law enforcers and victims.

Account for roving morals police and their victimization of women.

2. Make a web site or bulletin board characterizing attitudes of Pashtuns toward Hassan and Sohrab. Explain why Farid and General Taheri think of Sohrab as a mere Shi'a boy. Account for Rahim Khan's compassion toward Hassan's family.
3. Provide a map of Afghanistan and oral explanation of the significance of the Valley of Panjsher in the novel's last sentence.

Art

Make an illustrated notebook of touches of Afghan lifestyle among immigrants. Include courtesy, gossip about sexual scandal, betrothal negotiations, weddings, support of Afghan charities, wall decorations, Farsi terms, family meals, celebration of Afghan New Year, and Islamic worship.

Law

1. Read aloud state laws governing the rights and responsibilities of customers submitting checks in payment of groceries. Determine whether Baba behaved improperly and what he owes the Vietnamese couple for damages and lost business.
2. Make a chart of advice to Amir about retrieving and adopting an orphan from Afghanistan. Explain how Uncle Sharif achieves what Amir, Raymond Andrews, and Omar Faisal fail to do.
3. Compare the political and economic situations of Baba and Amir to those of Hosseini's family after they left France for America.

Social Studies and Economics

1. Discuss with a small group family patterns of behavior and expectations after serious financial setbacks, such as the refusal of food stamps and difficulty obtaining critical medical care. Explain why Baba appears to enjoy buying junk to sell at the San Jose flea market and why he celebrates Amir's graduation from high school.
2. Report orally on the physical and psychological effects of rape on Hassan and Sohrab. Explain why Amir's view of Hassan serving drinks at the birthday party illuminates Hassan's willing servitude to Baba, his family, and their guests.
3. Divide the class into small groups to brainstorm ways to improve family relations after Sanaubar returns to Baba's house. Include activities for grandmother and grandson that will allow Sanaubar to atone for abandoning her son.
4. Compose an extended definition of social and emotional isolation. Explain why the term describes Amir, Hassan, Baba, and Sohrab. Explain why the prospect of isolation forces Rahim Khan to abandon plans to marry a Hazara woman.

Psychology

1. Describe aloud Amir's response to Rahim Khan's disclosure about Hassan's conception and birth. Explain how the family connections account for Baba's building of an orphanage and his birthday gifts to Hassan. How does lying contribute to Amir's alienation from his father?
2. List aspects of Amir's atonement and prayers for Sohrab's safety that indicate a profound change of heart. Discuss how Amir re-evaluates his relationship with Baba and what Amir realizes about Rahim Khan's long-term friendship. Comment on the failed confession, dreams, car sickness, and dread that indicate subconscious stress on Amir. Why does he envy Soraya's ability to confess her elopement and the humiliation she suffers on her return home?

- Using incidents from the book, comment on gradual changes in Soraya. Discuss how she copes with childlessness and why Amir's confession over the phone convinces her to receive Sohrab as a son.
- Characterize the moral integrity and influence of Rahim Khan. Summarize the personal traits that strengthen his relationships with Baba and Amir. Explain why Rahim Khan waits until Amir is an adult before divulging family secrets.
- Write an encyclopedia entry on suicide. Add details that explain why an orphan like Sohrab would escape to the Shah Faisal Mosque to seek forgiveness and why he would choose death over return to the Kabul orphanage.

Mathematics and Computers

- Using desktop publishing, make a web site or bulletin board that identifies these terms: mosque, Farsi, Talib, Hazara, Pashtun, mullah, cleft lip, Daoud Khan, Muhammad Zahir Shah, Hitler, Jalalabad, pomegranate, *Shahnamah*, Hazarajat, Khyber Pass, halal, constitutional monarchy, Peshawar, Shi'a, *Wuthering Heights*, infertility, Bernal Heights, Allah, Koran, adultery, American Embassy, humanitarian visa, prayer rug, alaykum salaam, salaam alaykum, sociopath, namaz, epiphany, Jean Valjean, Javert, and kite runner.
- Based on your understanding of the novel, lead a panel discussion of the effects of war, deaths, debt, displacement, low-paying jobs, thwarted ambition, terminal illness, language difficulties, and homesickness on Afghan family life. Support your opinions with facts from census reports, sociological surveys, and statistics obtained from almanacs and economic and employment surveys. For source material, consult the U. S. Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov>.

Language and Speech

- Contrast news releases for radio, television, or print announcing the deaths of King Nadir Shah, Judge Ghazi, Sofia, Baba, Hassan, Farzana, Sanaubar, Rahim Khan, and adulterers stoned in a public arena. Typify coverage

of each event within and outside of governmental control.

- Prepare a dialogue dramatizing the reunion of Soraya and Amir at the airport and her welcome to Sohrab.
- Improve on Baba's angry speech to Amir about getting rid of their servants after years of Ali's faithful labor and loyalty. Give hints of Baba's brotherhood with Ali and Baba's love for Hassan.
- Lead a debate about Baba's role as father to two boys. Explain why guilt trickles down to Amir and why Ali and Hassan suffer for Baba and Sanaubar's sexual sin.

Literature

- Read aloud from nonfiction, novels, plays, speeches, and stories that describe incidents of racism, crime, warfare, religious bias, and injustice similar to that suffered by Hassan's family. Include Isabel Allende's *Daughter of Fortune* and *The House of the Spirits*, Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, Michael Dorris's *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees* and *Animal Dreams*, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream," William E. Barrett's *Lilies of the Field*, Terry McMillan's *Mama*, Theodore Taylor's *The Cay*, James Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's *Farewell to Manzanar*, Toni Cade Bambara's "Blues Ain't No Mockingbird," and Ruthann Lum McCunn's *Thousand Pieces of Gold*.
- Explain in a theme the significance of the title *The Kite Runner*, particularly as it applies to Hassan's loyal service to Amir and Amir's play with Sohrab. Propose reasons why kites are a suitable metaphor for high ideals and for human lapses. Why does the author choose the Afghan New Year celebration as an appropriate time for Amir's return to innocent play with his nephew/son?
- Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor character, such as the mullah, Dr. Rosen, Wahid, Dr. Faruqi, the hotel manager, Judge Ghazi, Jamila, Kamal, Toor, Maryam, Farid, Sanaubar, Karim, Assef's bodyguards,

the adulterers stoned at the stadium, and Zaman, the orphanage director. Determine which characters interact humanely with people of other races and backgrounds.

4. Explain in an impromptu chalk talk why the *Shahnamah* is a suitable gift for Amir's 13th birthday.
5. Listen to a recording of William Faulkner's Nobel prize acceptance speech. Apply his concept of "truths of the human heart" to Baba's life of lies, to Rahim Khan's complicity in deceit, and to Amir's redemption and reclamation as uncle and father to Sohrab.
6. Lead a panel discussion of Hosseini's inclusion of Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* and Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* in the plot. What does Jean Valjean's relationship with Cosette reflect about Amir's love for Sohrab? How does Heathcliff's second-class status in the Earnshaw household illuminate Ali's life as Baba's foster brother and Hassan's life as houseboy to Baba?

Alternate Assessment

1. List examples of violence in the lives of the characters, for example, the sexual assaults on Kamal and Hassan, Daoud Khan's bloodless coup against Muhammad Zahir Shah, the shooting deaths of Farzana and Hassan, Farid and Amir's viewing of a double stoning, the suicide of Kamal's father, Sohrab's attack on Assef, the sexual assaults of children at the orphanage, Farid's attempt to strangle Zaman, Judge Ghazi's murder, Sohrab's attempted suicide, Amir's fractured jaw and eye socket, Baba's breaking of glass at a Vietnamese market, the Russian's threats against a young Afghan woman, the murder of Ali's parents, and General Taheri's threat against Soraya's lover.
2. Compile a list of actions and statements that demonstrate racism at Baba's home, in Wazir Akbar Khan, among the Talib, in Gazarajat, and from Farid, Assef and his friends, and General Taheri.

3. Compose a scene in which Soraya and Jamila share an evening with Amir and Sohrab.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including: Baba's adultery with Sanaubar, Amir's arrogance, Assef's sociopathic brutality, Rahim Khan's lies, Farid's snap judgments, Karim's deceit, Soraya's shame after her elopement, Sanaubar's abandonment of a husband and five-day-old son, the Russian patrolman's lust for an Afghan wife, and General Taheri's dominance of his wife and daughter.
5. Account for the circle of betrayals that follows Judge Ghazi's rescue of Ali. Include Baba's adultery with Sanaubar, Rahim Khan's lies, Amir's cruelty toward Hassan, Amir's cowardice during Assef's assault on Hassan, Amir's fake theft of birthday presents, and the return of Ali and Hassan to Hazarajat.

Vocabulary Test

Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate word from the list below. You will have answers left over when you finish.

agha, alef-beh, Allah-u-akbar, baba, bakhshesh, burqa, chai, Eid, Farsi, ghazal, hadj, halal, Hazara, hijab, Hindi, jihad, loquat, MiG, mullah, naan, Namaz, panjpar, Pashtun, raga, rupia, sahib, salaam, sari, shah, *Shahnamah*, Shari'a, Sunni, Taliban, tandoor, Urdu

1. He sounds annoyed with the endless praying, the ritual of making the meat _____.
2. And not only did she teach classic _____ literature at the university, she was a descendant of the royal family.
3. We used to pay him a _____ of our allowance for a dance.
4. "_____, Maryam jan," Farid replied and gave her something he'd denied me all day: a warm smile.
5. How talented he is, my _____ boy!
6. As if on cue, a _____ suddenly screamed past overhead.
7. The _____ in our backyard used to apply mascara to the eyes of the sheep and feed it a cube of sugar before slicing its throat.
8. Sasa gave me little pieces of _____ and I fed the birds.
9. We unrolled one of the hotel's bathroom towels on the picnic table and played _____ on it.
10. I reached into the paper bag between my feet and took out the used copy of the _____ I had bought at the Persian bookstore.
11. On _____, the three days of celebration after the holy month of Ramadan, Kabulis dressed in their best and newest clothes and visited their families.
12. Now, run along, you're making me late for _____.
13. He is peering down at me, speaking rapidly in a language I don't understand, _____, I think.
14. He disappeared into the back, returned with a short, chubby woman in an orange _____.
15. On the south end of the garden, in the shadows of a _____ tree, was the servants' home, a modest little mud hut where Hassan lived with his father.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

Match each of the following quotations from the novel with its speaker. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. Some of the answers will be used more than once and some not at all.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A. Rahim Khan | F. Baba | K. Soraya |
| B. Hassan | G. Ali | L. Assef |
| C. Sohrab | H. General Taheri | M. Farid |
| D. Sanaubar | I. Amir | N. Raymond Andrews |
| E. Jamila | J. Omar Faisal | O. Zaman |

- _____ 1. I want my old life back.
- _____ 2. I want to be a teacher.
- _____ 3. I don't want to go to Kabul. I can't.
- _____ 4. I am ashamed for the lies we told you all those years.
- _____ 5. I will help you find this boy.
- _____ 6. I shall hear any story you have to tell.
- _____ 7. I played another little trick.
- _____ 8. I work always. In Afghanistan I work, in America I work.
- _____ 9. I hear she is a decent girl, hardworking and kind.
- _____ 10. I saw my mother had had a stroke.
- _____ 11. I feel like a tourist.
- _____ 12. I'm so profoundly happy, Dr. Rasul.
- _____ 13. I turn away mothers who bring their children.
- _____ 14. I could have you arrested for treason.
- _____ 15. I was screaming, calling my father all kinds of names.

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Farid blames Zaman for allowing Assef to terrorize the orphans.
- _____ 2. Baba saves an Afghan woman from the threat of rape by a Russian patrolman.
- _____ 3. Dr. Rasul falls under the gun butt of a Talib market guard.
- _____ 4. On Afghan New Year, Hassan must watch the competition from the roof.
- _____ 5. Dr. Faruqi recommends that Amir stay in a hotel in Pakistan to avoid detection by the Taliban.
- _____ 6. The secretary alters Amir's opinion of Raymond Andrews.
- _____ 7. The children covet Amir's American watch.
- _____ 8. Ali's gift to Amir is a copy of the *Shahnamah*.
- _____ 9. General Iqbal Teheri tosses Amir's story into the trash.
- _____ 10. Amir convinces Soraya to stay with Baba rather than move to Bernal Heights.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the blanks below with a word or phrase which completes the sentence.

1. Amir counters _____ 's insult by disclosing the mission to retrieve _____ 's son.
2. _____ identifies _____ as a skilled marksman with a slingshot.
3. Amir's former _____ is safe from shelling because the _____ inhabit the neighborhood.
4. _____ has grown into a monster who led a _____ massacre and left the bodies for dogs to devour.
5. Amir surprises _____ by laughing at the assault that rids Amir of guilt for abandoning _____.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences on the following page.

1. Describe how Kabul has changed since Amir's departure and return.
2. Explain what personal faults Soraya has to confess to Amir before she accepts a betrothal.
3. Discuss Judge Ghazi's influence on the family tree.
4. Account for Sohrab's attempted suicide.
5. Summarize events that precede Kamal's suffocation.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Select the phrase that completes each of the following sentences. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. While in Kabul,
- A. Farid relies on street directions from Wahid.
 - B. the smell of diesel fuel and danger from the Talib drive beggars off the streets.
 - C. Amir wears a fake beard.
 - D. Sofia avoids the patrols around the university.
- _____ 2. Baba refutes the claims of
- A. the mullah.
 - B. an elderly Vietnamese couple.
 - C. the Russian doctor.
 - D. his business partner.
- _____ 3. The same woman
- A. delivered Hassan and Sohrab.
 - B. greeted Amir each day at the flea market stall.
 - C. who fled the Russian patrol also joined Afghans in the park.
 - D. nursed Amir and Hassan.
- _____ 4. Amir learns tenderness from
- A. Ali.
 - B. Rahim Khan.
 - C. Soraya.
 - D. Sohrab.
- _____ 5. Baba refuses
- A. a bag of peaches and kiwis.
 - B. ESL classes.
 - C. visitors to his bedside.
 - D. the gift of the blue kite.
- _____ 6. Assef enjoys
- A. the term "ethnic cleansing."
 - B. removal of the gold ball.
 - C. hearing how Kamal died.
 - D. stoning adulterers in the soccer stadium.

- _____ 7. Amir confesses
- A. to Jamila his father's adultery with Sanaubar.
 - B. after everyone is asleep.
 - C. that Farid sent him to Zaman in Kabul.
 - D. to General Taheri that Baba was ashamed of his Hasara son.
- _____ 8. The Talib accuse
- A. Farzana and her husband of trespassing.
 - B. the mullah of distracting boys with kite flying.
 - C. Sofia of displaying her pregnancy in public.
 - D. Hazaras of favoring Hitler.
- _____ 9. Amir is unaware
- A. of boys selling pornography at the stadium.
 - B. of Ali and Hassan departing for Jalalabad in the rain.
 - C. that Hassan also had a daughter.
 - D. that Sohrab attempts suicide in the bathroom.
- _____ 10. It is unusual for
- A. Afghan boys to hear stories from the *Shahnamah*.
 - B. Pashtuns to hire Hazara servants.
 - C. Amir to pray earnestly.
 - D. Baba to buy gifts for Ali's son.

Part II: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences on the following page.

1. Explain why Sohrab prefers death.
2. Contrast Hassan, Judge Ghazi, and Baba as fathers.
3. Describe Amir's unhappiness during and after the birthday party.
4. Account for Sohrab's ending of the fight.
5. How does Rahim prove that "guilt leads to good"?

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. You will use some answers more than once and some not at all.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A. Rahim Khan | F. Baba | K. Soraya |
| B. Hassan | G. Ali | L. Assef |
| C. Sohrab | H. General Taheri | M. Farid |
| D. Sanaubar | I. Amir | N. Raymond Andrews |
| E. Jamila | J. Omar Faisal | O. Zaman |

- _____ 1. suggests that Sohrab remain in an orphanage for two years.
- _____ 2. changes dramatically after the suicide of a daughter.
- _____ 3. helps Farzana deliver Sohrab.
- _____ 4. believes that Amir is a wealthy, spoiled Afghan.
- _____ 5. escorts Hassan to Hazarajat.
- _____ 6. refuses to fight back against being hit by pomegranates.
- _____ 7. gives up singing.
- _____ 8. held a man at gunpoint for abduction.
- _____ 9. pays Amir's hospital bill.
- _____ 10. wears bells at the ankle.
- _____ 11. regrets not having enough mattresses.
- _____ 12. wishes Hassan could attend graduation.
- _____ 13. survived a communist jail.
- _____ 14. finds dignity and reward in teaching.
- _____ 15. writes while working as a warehouse security guard.

Part IV: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. Where does Kamal die?
- _____ 2. Who flees to Virginia?
- _____ 3. What is Amir's graduation gift?
- _____ 4. What does Sohrab keep under his pillow?
- _____ 5. What does Assef give Amir for his 13th birthday?
- _____ 6. Who rescues the Afghan woman from the Russian?
- _____ 7. Which character returns to Afghanistan after its liberation from the Taliban?
- _____ 8. Who chases Sohrab's kite?
- _____ 9. Who first compliments Amir's skill at storytelling?
- _____ 10. Why does Hassan agree to return to Baba's house?

Answer Key

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| 1. halal | 6. MiG | 11. Eid |
| 2. Farsi | 7. mullah | 12. Namaz |
| 3. rupia | 8. naan | 13. Urdu |
| 4. salaam | 9. panjpar | 14. sari |
| 5. Hazara | 10. <i>Shahnamah</i> | 15. loquat |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A | 11. I |
| 2. K | 7. I | 12. D |
| 3. I | 8. F | 13. O |
| 4. A | 9. F | 14. L |
| 5. M | 10. K | 15. K |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

1. Farid, Hassan
2. Zaman, Sohrab
3. home, Talib
4. Assef, Hazara
5. Assef, Hassan

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A |
| 2. A | 7. B |
| 3. D | 8. A |
| 4. C | 9. D |
| 5. B | 10. C |

Part II: Essay (30 Points)

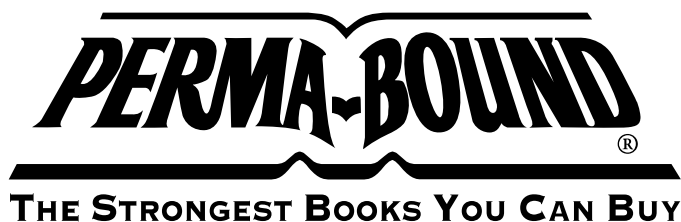
Answers will vary.

Part III: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. B | 11. O |
| 2. N | 7. E | 12. F |
| 3. D | 8. H | 13. L |
| 4. M | 9. A | 14. K |
| 5. G | 10. C | 15. I |

Part IV: Short Answer (20 points)

1. in an oil tanker
2. Soraya
3. used ford
4. photo of himself and his father
5. biography of Hitler
6. Baba
7. General Taheri
8. Amir
9. Hassan
10. out of grief at Baba's death



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