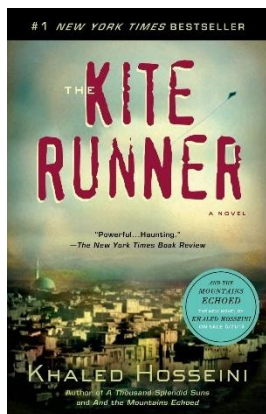


Riviera Schools

2021 REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR AP Literature and Composition



The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Since its publication in 2003 *Kite Runner* has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic of contemporary literature, touching millions of readers, and launching the career of one of America's most treasured writers.

Excerpted from: <http://www.amazon.com>

You may purchase a book or download an e-book.

After Reading: Please respond to the following questions as completely as possible. Each answer should be a “mini-essay” (at least two paragraphs each). Please type this assignment (double spaced) and have it ready to turn in on the first day of school.

1. The novel begins with Amir's memory of peering down an alley, looking for Hassan who is kite running for him. As Amir peers into the alley, he witnesses a tragedy. The novel ends with Amir kite running for Hassan's son, Sohrab, as he begins a new life with Amir in America. Why do you think the author chooses to frame the novel with these scenes? Refer to the following passage: “Afghans like to say; Life goes on unmindful of beginning, end...crisis or catharsis, moving forward like a slow, dusty caravan of kochis (nomads).” How is this significant to the framing of the novel?
2. The strong underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Discuss their friendship. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan's true friend? Why does Amir constantly test Hassan's loyalty? Why does he resent Hassan? After the kite running tournament, why does Amir no longer want to be Hassan's friend?
3. America acts as a place for Amir to bury his memories and a place for Baba to mourn this. In America, there are “homes that made Baba's house in Wazir Akbar Khan look like a

servant's hut." What is ironic about this statement? What is the function of irony in this novel?

4. Why is Baba disappointed by Amir's decision to become a writer? During their argument about his career path, Amir thinks, "I would stand my ground, I decided. I didn't want to sacrifice for Baba anymore. The last time I had done that, I damned myself." What had Amir sacrificed for Baba? How has Amir "damned himself"?
5. Amir's confrontation with Assef in Wazir Akar Khan marks an important turning point in the novel. Why does the author have Amir, Assef, and Sohrab all come together in this way? What is the significance of the scar that Amir develops as a result of the confrontation? Why is it important in Amir's journey toward forgiveness and acceptance?
6. While in the hospital in Peshawar, Amir has a dream in which he sees his father wrestling a bear: "They roll over a patch of grass, man and beast...they fall to the ground with a loud thud and Baba is sitting on the bear's chest, his fingers digging in his snout. He looks up at me, and I see. He's me. I am wrestling the bear." Why is this dream so important at this point in the story? What does this dream finally help Amir realize?
7. Amir and Hassan have a favorite story. Does the story have the same meaning for both men? Why does Hassan name his son after one of the characters in the story?
8. Discuss the difference between Baba and Ali and between Amir and Hassan. Are Baba's and Amir's betrayals and similarities in their relationships of their servants (if you consider Baba's act a betrayal) similar or different? Do you think that such betrayals are inevitable in the master/servant relationship, or do you feel that they are due to flaws in Baba's and Amir's characters, or are they the outcome of circumstances and characters?

Remember:

- Always read over your finished work!
- Type your responses.
- Double space.
- Times New Roman or Arial – Font –Size 12
- Send your work through spell and grammar check.
- Put heading on top left of your paper
- Do not "share" any work with your peers.

John Doe
Teacher Name (leave blank for now)
AP English Literature and Composition
23 August 2021