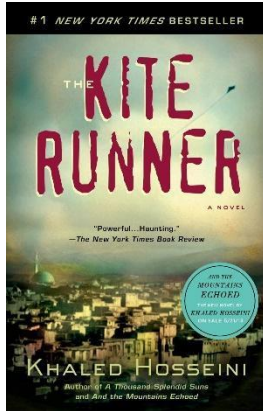


Riviera Schools

2024 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 must have a **hard copy** as annotations are required. **The assignment must be turned in digitally on the first day of class.**

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
19 August 2024

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. In what ways do you believe the absence of mothers (both Amir's mother who dies from childbirth and Hassan's mother who runs away) change both how Amir and Hassan view themselves and their fathers. In Amir's case, do you think Baba unconsciously blames Amir for his mother's death and in turn, does her absence lead Amir to be even more reliant on his father's approval. In the same vein, is Hassan, especially because of the rumors surrounding his mother, even more close to his father? Ultimately, how do you believe Amir and Hassan would think and act differently if their mothers were still alive?

7. Do you think there is an antagonist or perhaps more than one antagonist in the novel? If so, who and provide at least three examples which support your position. Perhaps you feel there is not one consistent antagonist but shifting villains which is a fair argument to make. Remember that an antagonist can also be a force as much as it is a person.
8. It is important to be aware of the unfortunate, but perhaps existentially unavoidable, circumstances in Afghanistan over the last year. Before answering this question watch the following video and read the article:

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e_iOfyd3f0

Article:

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/afghanistans-future-after-the-taliban-takeover/>

Once you have done so, what parallels can you draw between what you learned about Afghanistan and especially the Taliban in the novel and what has happened since mid 2021? Finally, does the ethnic conflict between the Pashtuns and Hazaras in the novel remind of similar conflicts in the world today.

9. At what point in the novel did you sense that Baba might be guilty of hypocrisy? Explain your reasoning. Do you believe that he regards lying and by extension theft as the ultimate sins because he does not want Amir to fall into the same moral trap he did, or do you think he is blind to his own "great lie" about Hassan's birth and therefore sees himself as morally superior to his peers? At any point in the story, do you think Amir can see through his father's tough exterior and supposedly strong moral code?