

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini

Study Guide for ENL 2022 -- M. Ascorbe

Instructions: 1. Read and annotate the novel thoroughly to the best of your ability; bring novel to class on the FIRST DAY. 2. Answer ALL Study Guide questions on a Word or Notability PDF file, which you will eventually upload to Canvas. You DO NOT have to write questions – just numbered answers by Chapter. This needs to be completed by the FIRST day of class. I suggest you answer questions as you read – it is easier and will make more sense to you. This is a long study guide – use your time wisely.

Chapters 1-3

1. How old did the narrator say he was when he became “what he is today”?
2. Identify the characters of Amir, Baba, Hassan, Ali, and Rahim Kahan.
3. Who worked for whom?
4. What happened to Amir’s mother?
5. What happened to Hassan’s mother?
6. Define Hazara, Shi’a Muslim, Sunni Muslim, Pashtuns, and Farsi.
7. What does the narrator seem to foreshadow at the end of chapter 2? What is the tone?
9. In Chapter 3, on page 22, what do you think Baba is talking about when he states that there is “something missing” with Amir?

Chapter 4-7

1. Why do you think Amir states that he never thought of Hassan as his friend?
2. Why couldn’t Hassan read?
3. What does “jan” mean? Is there an English word that is similar?
4. When did the bombing/fighting begin in Afghanistan, according to Amir?
5. Describe Assef.
6. What did Baba give Hassan for his birthday?
7. Explain kite running competition.
9. Why did Amir feel he must win the tournament?

10. What tragic event happened to Hassan?
11. What would you have done if you were Amir?

Chapter 8-10

1. Why do you think Amir no longer wanted to play with Hassan?
2. Which character's seems to be more emotionally mature? Explain.
3. Why did Amir throw pomegranates at Hassan?
4. What is the significance behind Assef's birthday present for Amir?
5. What story did Rahim Kahn tell Amir on his birthday? Why?
6. What gift did he give him?
7. What did Amir hide under Hassan's bed? Why?
8. Why did Hassan lie?
9. Why did Hassan and Ali leave?
10. Where did Amir and Baba flee to?
11. Why could people no longer be trusted in Afghanistan?

Chapters 11 and 12

1. Where did Amir and Baba go after Pakistan?
2. What job did Baba get and why didn't he want food stamps?
3. What did Baba give Amir for his birthday? Why?
5. What did Amir decide to study in college and how did Baba feel about Amir's decision?
7. What did Baba and Amir do to supplement their income?
8. Write short reflection on Baba's comment at the end of chapter 11.
9. What dating customs and traditions does American culture have? Southern culture? Compare and contrast with Afghanistan dating cultures/rituals.
12. Compare and contrast parental relations today in America versus Afghan culture.
13. What do you think about the marriage proposal?

Chapter 13

1. Why wasn't Soraya present at the beginning of the engagement party?
2. Discuss wedding traditions. Traditionally, the bride's family pays for American/Christian weddings. Who paid for Amir's wedding?
3. What is a mosque?
4. When did Baba die and what did he do the night before he died?
5. Why didn't the General work?
6. Why didn't the General want Jamila to sing in public?
7. Why do people whisper behind Soraya's back?
8. Why did the doctor say Amir and his wife couldn't have children?

Chapter 14-16

1. Who called Amir and asked him to come to Pakistan? What reason did the caller give?
2. How long did Amir plan to be gone for?
3. Who lived in Baba's house after he and Amir fled Kabul and why?
4. Why were the Afghans glad to have the Taliban in the beginning?
5. Why did Rahim Khan want Hassan to come live with him?
6. What was Hassan's house like and what was his wife's name?
7. What had happened to Ali?
8. Why do you think Hassan changed his mind and moved with his family to live in Baba's house with Rahim Khan?
9. Why wouldn't Hassan move into the main house?
10. Who was the old woman who showed up on their doorstep and why do you think Hassan forgave her?

11. What was Hassan's son's name and why did he name him that?
12. What year did the Taliban take over Kabul and what year did they massacre the Hazaras?

Chapter 17-18

1. What happened to Hassan and Farzana? What did the Taliban say about it?
2. What did Rahim Khan want Amir to do?
3. What did Amir find out about Hassan, Ali, and Baba and why was he so upset?
4. Why is Amir more like Baba than he thought he was?
5. Why did Amir decide to go to Kabul?

Chapter 19

1. What was the name of Amir's cab driver and what does Amir have to wear? Why?
2. What is a burqa? Pakol?
3. Why was the cab driver so rude to Amir?
4. Why didn't the women make eye contact?
5. How did Farid's brother Wahid treat Amir?
6. What did Amir give the children? Why?
7. Describe Amir's dream. What is the significance?
8. Amir planted money under the mattress just like he did twenty-six years before. What is the significance of this?

Chapter 20 - 22

1. Why is Farid treating Amir differently now?
2. Why were "fathers a rare commodity in Afghanistan"?

3. What advice did Farid give Amir regarding the Taliban?
4. What did Amir learn about his mother? From whom?
5. Why are children with mothers but not fathers considered orphans in Afghanistan? Why can't their mothers take care of them?
6. Why did Farid become so upset with the orphanage director and what was Zaman's excuse for his behavior?
7. Why were the houses in Amir's old neighborhood still in good shape and why did Amir need to see his old house?
8. What made Amir stop laughing and think that maybe Afghanistan was a hopeless place?
9. What was the half time show for the soccer game?
10. What crime did the couple commit and what was their punishment?
11. Who was the executioner?
12. What does Amir notice about the "John Lennon's" arm and what did the "John Lennon" notice about Amir?
13. What has happened to Sohrab?
14. Who did "John Lennon" turn out to be and why is this significant?
15. Assef said Amir could take Sohrab on one condition. What was that condition and why?
16. What did Assef tell his guards when he asked them to leave and what happened after that?
17. Why did Amir laugh?
18. Explain how everything came full circle. Was it ironic?
19. Why did Amir tell Sohrab the truth about his relationship with Hassan?
20. What did Amir promise Sohrab? And what did Sohrab agree to do?
21. What steps did Amir have to take in order to bring Sohrab home?

Chapter 23

1. Describe Amir's injuries.
2. Which of Amir's injuries was ironic? Why?
3. What did Sohrab say when Amir introduced himself and why do you think Sohrab didn't want to talk?
4. Why did Rahim Khan say Baba was so hard on Amir growing up? Do you think that is fair?
5. Why do you think Rahim Khan wants to die alone? \
6. Why did Amir begin crying when Farid said, "For you a thousand times over" ?
7. Where are John and Betty Caldwell?
8. Why do you think Rahim Khan lied?
9. What did Amir mean when he said, "Islamabad was the city Kabul could have become someday"
10. How much did Amir give Farid?
11. Where did Sohrab go?
12. 4. Amir remembers someone once saying, "There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood" .What does that mean?
13. Why does Sohrab think he might go to hell?
14. What did Andrews at the American embassy say?
15. Why do you think Sohrab took such long baths every night?
16. What does the immigration lawyer say may be Amir's best shot at adopting Sohrab and what ends up happening to Sohrab?

Chapter 25

1. Why did Amir pray for the first time since Baba died?
2. What was the last thing Sohrab said for almost a year? Why?
3. What did Amir tell his family about Sohrab?
4. What gave Amir a glimpse of hope for Sohrab's future?
5. What is the significance of Amir telling Sohrab, "for you, a thousand times over"?