

The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini

ESL 21B
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The Kite Runner Chapters One and Two (p.1-11)

Directions: Highlight unfamiliar words or phrases on the chart. With your team mates, try to figure out their meanings & write these in ENGLISH in the appropriate boxes. *As a last resort*, look up unknown words in your ENGLISH/ENGLISH dictionary. DO NOT USE ELECTRONIC OR BILINGUAL dictionaries!

Vocabulary:

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs	Idioms
breeze	crouching (may be adj)	frigid	perpetually	told on me
Kabul	crumbling (may be adj)	unatoned		
afterthought	sparkled	flickering		
shard	propelled (may be adj)	meaty		
appendage	annoy	affluent		
chatter	hemorrhaged	intricate		
kerosene lamp	abandoned (may be adj)	custom built		
military barracks	atrophied (may be adj)	dashing		

cleft lip/ harelip	tempted	grim		
poplar		mahogany		
slingshot		extravagant		
estate		frayed		
congenital paralysis		forbidden		
infidelity		unscrupulous		
Ancestry		impish		
	persecute	persecuted		
	oppress	oppressed		
	quelled			
	snickered			
disdain				
antidote				
midwife				
brotherhood				
kinship				

Add any additional vocabulary words from the story whose meanings you would like to find out:

Team Activities:

1. <http://www.lcl.lib.ne.us/info/obol/obol2005/obol2005-2htm#guides>
2. Go to the site and find a map of Afghanistan. Mark Kabul. Find Afghanistan on a world map and compute the distance between Kabul and San Francisco.
3. See what you can discover about the following ethnic/religious groups mentioned in *TKR*. One member of each team is responsible for researching one topic and reporting back to the team as a whole. Include any salient information about the history, beliefs, practices, appearance (if relevant), dress, relation to other groups, philosophy, social status, etc. of each of the groups below:

<u>Muslim</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Shi'a</u>	<u>Hazara</u>	<u>Mogul</u>	<u>Pashtun</u>

THE KITE RUNNER**DISCUSSION QUESTION (1-34)**

1. The novel begins with a flashback. What do you think is its purpose? What words in the first paragraph stand out? What do they suggest about the character of Amir, the narrator?
2. The second and third paragraphs introduce the title of the novel. What context is the title placed in? What do these passages suggest about the path that Amir's life has taken?
3. In "Two," Hassan is described. Who is Hassan? How did he come into Amir's life? (What does this suggest about the background of Amir's family?) How is Hassan described physically (3)? What contrast is made between the character of Amir and Hassan (4)?
4. How does Amir describe his home (4)? Why do you think he elaborates on this description so much? What do the details of the family pictures in Amir's house reveal (5)?
5. Who is Sanaubar (6-8)? How is she contrasted to Amir's mother? What adjectives are used to describe her? How is she contrasted to Ali?
6. What was Amir's first impression of Hazaras? What changed this impression (9)? How did Amir's teacher react to Amir's knowledge about Hazaras? (9-10)
7. "Ali never retaliated against any of his tormentors." "Ali was immune to the insults of his assailants." What do these statements say about the character of Ali?
8. "Then [Ali] would remind us that there was a brotherhood between people who had fed from the same breast, a kinship that not even time could break." (11). What kinship developed? By the end of this chapter, how does the reader know that this kinship is central to the course of Amir's life?
9. Amir introduces the first main chapter about his father with what statement? (12) What is he telling us through this choice of image? Why was the name that Baba's friend, Rahim Khan, gave to Baba an appropriate one? What are Baba's values (15-18)? How does he relate to extremely religious leaders?
10. How do you characterize the conflict between Baba and Amir (18-23)? What incidents are described that characterize this conflict? **What is your reaction to this relationship? Have you ever known someone similar to Baba?**

11. If you were asked to write a title for Chapter 4, what title would you choose and why?

Write the definition and all possible forms of the following words:

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
		obstinate	
imbecile			
irony			
		envious	

THE KITE RUNNER
pp. 35-109

1. What was the significance of July 17, 1973? (36) What is a **coup**? How does a **monarchy** differ from a **republic**? What is the present state of Afghanistan’s government?
2. Who is Assef? (38-40) What is his ancestry? What is he famous for? What is his political vision? The author describes Assef “**flanked**” by obeying friends. Flanked probably means _____. The verb “**pummeled**” and the adjective “**relentless**” are used in reference to Assef. Why? Why does Amir suggest that Assef might be a **sociopath**?
3. In what way does Assef make Amir question himself? (41)
4. Hassan used the term “**agha**” in addressing Pashtuns. What do you think this term means? How does Amir analyze Hassan’s use of “agha” on p. 42?
5. Why did Hassan and Amir leave their encounter with Assef in **trepidation**? (43)
6. “Incapable of lying” refers to which character(s)? Why does that become particularly important information to give?

7. Baba's birthday present to Hassan suggests what about Baba's character? How does Amir react to this present? (46) Why did the present turn out to be ironic?
8. Why was wintertime loved by wealthy children in Afghanistan? Describe the apparatus needed for the kite fight. How did this custom reflect the spirit of Afghan people? (52) What aspects of this kite ritual stand out most in your mind?
9. Amir reveals some complex elements of his own character as he prepares for the kite tournament. (54) What questions does this raise about Amir?
10. Amir tells us Iran was considered a "**sanctuary** of sorts" for some people. Who? (57-58). How does Baba relate to Iran? What does that show about Baba?
11. In what way is Hassan's dream before the tournament a **foreshadowing** of events to come? (60) Why is it ironic?
12. During the tournament Amir describes the blue kite as "**wreaking havoc**." What was the kite doing?
13. Why are Rostam and Sohrab mentioned by Amir during the tournament? (67)
14. "I opened my mouth, almost said something. Almost. The rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had. But I didn't. I just watched. Paralyzed." (73) Explain the importance of these words.
15. Explain the importance of the two memories and dream presented on 73-74.
16. "I watch because of that look of acceptance in the animal's eyes. Absurdly, I imagine the animal understands. I imagine the animal sees that its **imminent demise** is for a higher purpose." (77) What are these words referring to?
17. "Hassan **milled about** the **periphery** of my life after that." (88) What is Amir saying? How does this situation change? What do pomegranates and Amir's birthday party have to do with this change in Amir and Hassan's lives?
18. What is your reaction to Amir's betrayal?

19. Amir also receives an ironic birthday gift. What is the gift? From whom? Why is it ironic? (96-97).

20. “In the end, the world always wins.” (99) Who says this? What does it mean? Do you (dis)/agree? Why or why not?

21. Define “rationalization.” What was Amir’s rationalization for hiding his watch (104-106)? Explain what happened with the watch and bills. What was the result?

22. Look up **Taliban** on the internet. Look up **Bamiyan, Afghanistan** on the internet. Locate the city on the map. Explain in detail what happened there during the reign of the **Taliban**. What is your reaction? You may use this space, and if you need more room, additional pieces of paper.
HAND IN.

THE KITE RUNNER**109-176 Quotes**

Locate each quote on the page noted. Tell who said it, to whom, and in what context. Explain how each quote relates to the larger themes of the story.

1. "Behind me Baba was apologizing to the other passengers. As if car sickness was a crime." (111)
2. "The signs of our elopement were subtle." (112)
3. "Complain about the curfew to the butcher and next thing you knew, you were behind bars staring at the muzzle end of a Kalashnikov." (113)
4. "War does not negate decency. It demands it, even more than in times of peace." (115)
5. "I didn't want to see the murderous look on Baba's face." (119)
6. "Should have never let him go alone . . . always so handsome, you know . . . four of them . . . bleeding down there . . . doesn't talk anymore . . . just stares (120)
7. "I didn't remember what month that was, or what year even. I only knew the memory lived in me, a perfectly encapsulated morsel of a good past, a brushstroke of color on the gray, barren canvas that our lives had become." (123)
8. "There are only three real men in this world, Amir." (125)
9. "Almost two years we've bought his damn fruits and put money in his pocket and the son of a dog wants to see my license." (127)
10. "For me America was a place to bury my memories."
"For Baba, a place to mourn his." (129)
11. "I wish Hassan had been with us today." (133)
12. "If for nothing else, for **that**, I embraced America." (136)
13. "My Swap Meet Princess." (142) "yelda"

14. Ziba (151)

15. "I don't know what or whom he was defying. Me? Dr. Amani? Or maybe the God he had never believed in." (157)

16. "How could I, of all people, chastise someone for their past?" (165)

THE KITE RUNNER
pp.110 – 124

1. "My **innards** had been **roiling** since we'd left Kabul." (110) Explain the meaning.
2. "people smuggling – a **lucrative** business" (111) – What is Amir referring to?
3. Why does Amir say they **eloped** from their home? What were the subtle signs of elopement? (112)
4. "The **rafiqs**, the comrades were everywhere and they'd split Kabul into two groups: those who eavesdropped and those who didn't." (112-113) Explain the significance of this statement.
5. checkpoint, curfew, MiG -- Explain
6. "It's his price for letting us pass." (115) Why are these words important. In your own country, have there been similar prices that had to be paid?
7. "War doesn't negate decency. It demands it, even more than in times of peace." (115) What is your reaction to these words?
8. "Russia sends them here to fight, but they are just boys, and when they come here, they find the pleasure of drug." (117) Why does the author have the Russian soldier give this information?
9. Describe the basement hiding place in Jalalabad (119). What adjectives are used?

10. What is your reaction to Kamal’s fate? (120) His father’s fate? (124)

11. Explain the importance of Baba’s gesture just before entering the fuel truck.

12. “I only knew the memory lived in me, a perfectly encapsulated morsel of a good past, a brushstroke of color on the gray, barren canvas that our lives had become.” (123) What is Amir referring to? Why are his words particularly meaningful?

THE KITE RUNNER

pp.125 – 176

Locate Fremont, California on the map. Compare/contrast Fremont with Santa Monica in the following chart.

City	Climate/ Weather	General Population	# of Afghani Immigrants	# of Afghan Restaurants	# of mosques	Types of SES
FREMONT						
SANTA MONICA						

1. “Baba loved the *idea* of America. It was living in America that gave him an ulcer.” (125)
Comment on this paradox. Compare/contrast it to your own experience.

2. What were some of Baba’s specific complaints about the U.S.? What are some of yours?
(126)

3. Baba was resistant to the idea of taking ESL classes. Why? (126)

4. When Amir suggests they go back to Peshawar, what is Baba's reply? What does his reply tell you about Baba's character and his aspirations for the future – for himself and for his son? (129) Can you draw any parallels to your own family?
5. Describe the scene in which Baba gives Amir an unexpected surprise as a graduation gift. What is the gift? What is Amir feeling at that moment? What is Baba feeling? (131-134)
6. Describe the flea market. What social purpose did the market serve? (136-142)
7. Explain: "It may be unfair, but what happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole lifetime..." (142) Who says this? To whom? In what context? Do you agree or disagree? Give an example from your own experience or observation to support your view.
8. Why did the visit with the pulmonologist, Dr. Schneider seem to be going well until Baba asked where he was from? (155)
9. What was Baba's diagnosis? What did he plan to do about his illness? Did Amir agree with his decision?
10. Amir said, "I'd become conversant in cancer talk." (159) Explain.
11. Amir asked Baba to pay a formal visit to Soraya's family. What did the formal visit signify? Why do you suppose Amir asked for the visit just now? (161-164)
12. On page 165 Amir says he envied Soraya because her secret was out. What was her secret and why did he envy her?
13. Reconstruct Amir and Soraya's wedding scene. (166-171) Cite time of day, place, dress, ceremonies, food, participants, and other specifics.

14. Look up Afghan wedding customs on the internet. Fill in the following chart comparing/contrasting Afghan weddings with weddings in your culture. If you are married, bring in a copy of your wedding photo to share with your group as you work on the chart.

Customs	Typical Afghan wedding	Typical wedding in my culture
Dress/Costume		
Who performs the wedding?		
Place		
Ceremonies		
Participants		
Food		

15. Did Soraya and Amir have a “typical” Afghan wedding? Why or why not?
16. After the wedding, what suggestion did Soraya make? How did Amir feel about her idea? (172)
17. In your culture, are young people expected to care for aging relatives at home? Do you expect that your children will care for you at home when you are old? Why or why not?
18. At Baba’s funeral, Amir gained a fresh insight into his father’s good deeds and impact on others. What were some of those deeds? What was Amir’s reaction? (174)
19. What is “black humor?” Is there anything humorous about the disagreement at Baba’s graveside? If you have ever experienced or observed anything funny or ironic at a funeral, please share your experience or observation here.

THE KITE RUNNER
176-242

1. How would you describe Soraya's father? What is the nature of the conflict between Soraya and her father? (180-182)
2. After four years of marriage, what was the **overt** hint Soraya's mother kept giving?
3. What is your reaction to the character of Dr. Rosen? (185) What do **HMO** and **IVF** stand for and what do they have to do with Rosen?
4. What is the General's opinion of adoption (187-188)? Do you agree?
5. What is the difference between "**It wasn't meant to be**" and "**It was meant not to be**"?
6. How does the author describe Soraya's feeling about her **infertility** (189)?
- 7. Do you think Amir should have told Soraya about his betrayal of Hassan before they were married?**
- 8. "Every woman needed a husband. Even if he did silence the song in her." (178)**
Whose words are these? What is your reaction to them? In your culture, is there pressure on young people to marry? How does your society view people who never marry?
9. What do the words of Rahim Kahn's phone call tell Amir (192)?
10. What does Amir say about clichés? (197) Why does Amir use the cliché about "an elephant in the room" to describe his meeting with Rahim Khan?
11. How does Rahim describe Kabul under the Northern Alliance? (199) **Which description of a specific place in the novel impressed you the most? Why?**
- 12. How do you respond to Rahim's comparison of Americans and Afghans? (201) Would the same comparison be made of people from your country and America? Explain.**

13. What is your response to Sanaubar's fate (208-211)? **What is poetic justice? How does this relate to characters in the novel?**

14. "Hassan slumps to the asphalt, his life of **unrequited loyalty** drifting from him like the windblown kites he used to chase." (219) Explain the importance of this statement.

15. **Do you think Rahim's dying wish was unfair?** (221)

16. **"There is only one sin. And that is theft. . . . When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth."** Did Baba steal that right from Amir?

17. When Farid said, "You've always been a tourist here, you just didn't know it" (232), what did he mean? What is Farid's impression of emigrant Afghans who return to visit Afghanistan (236)? Do people in your country say something similar about emigrants who pay return visits?

THE KITE RUNNER**257-303**

Locate each quote listed below in the text. Highlight it in the book. Explain briefly who said it, to whom, in what context, and what it means in terms of the larger themes of *TKR*.

Voices of Afghanistan:

1. "If I deny him one child, he takes ten. So I let him take one and leave the judging the Allah" (257)
2. "You know what they're doing? Haggling over the leg."
3. "Exploitation to finance a beach house in Hawaii was one thing. Doing it [charging \$75] to feed your kids was another."
4. "He told me of the day helicopter gunfire killed his father, of the day the land mine took his two daughters. He asked me about America" (266)
5. "There was no assigned seating of course" (268)
6. "It was the cry of a wild animal trying to pry its mangled leg free from the bear trap." (269)
7. "I found it morbidly fascinating that he hadn't changed clothes after the executions earlier that day." (275)
8. "Public justice is the greatest kind of show, my brother. Drama. Suspense. And, best of all, education en mass." (276)
9. "You don't know the meaning of the word 'liberating' until you've done that, stood in a roomful of targets, let the bullets fly, free of guilt and remorse, knowing you are virtuous, good, and decent. Knowing you're doing God's work." (277)
10. "Afghanistan is like a beautiful mansion littered with garbage, and someone has to take out the garbage."

Vocabulary:

Match each numbered term with the letter that best defines it. Highlight each word in your book.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. haggling (261) | a. chest and lung area |
| 2. sagged (261) | b. threw (as in rocks) |
| 3. crammed (263) | c. bargaining about price |
| 4. succulent (265) | d. melt-in-your-mouth tasty |
| 5. mullah jokes (266) | e. unfaithful spouse |
| 6. buckled (269) | f. feeling sorry, regret |
| 7. slumped (269) | g. dipped in the middle |
| 8. adultery/adulterer (270) | h. internal bleeding |
| 9. unceremoniously (272) | i. removal of the organ that |
| 10. furtive glances (280) | j. helps filter blood |
| 11. epiphany (282) | k. forgive |
| 12. trench (284) | l. forced into a small area |
| 13. shrapnel (284) | m. flirty, coquettish |
| 14. pleading (285) | n. commit evil without accepting responsibility or consequences |
| 15. curt (285) | o. funny stories about cleric |
| 16. coy (285) | p. craziness |
| 17. to hurl (287) | q. quick, secretive looks |
| 18. pelted (289) | r. collapsed |
| 19. lunacy (289) | s. without fanfare |
| 20. hemorrhage (296) | t. cuts and scratches |
| 21. splenectomy (296) | u. "aha" moment, Eureka! |
| 22. pneumothorax (296) | v. ditch |
| 23. lacerations (296) | w. dangerous debris from weapons or explosions |
| 24. absolve (301) | x. begging |
| 25. sin-with-impunity (301) | y. brusque, abrupt, impolite |
| 26. remorse (302) | z. drooped, fell over |
| 27. knuckles (287) | aa. to throw or toss |
| | bb. middle joint on each finger |

THE KITE RUNNER
257-303 (continued)

1. Comment on the description of Sohrab (279), his “dance” and his association with the ritual lamb (285).
2. What is your reaction to Assef’s reappearance as a **Talib**? How does he justify his transformation? Is it a transformation? (283)
3. Can you explain the laughter Amir came forth with during his fight with Assef? (289)
4. What is the symbolic value of the slingshot and the way Assef was wounded? Do you know of any other stories from other sources that feature slingshots? What was symbolic about the facial damage Amir received? Do you know of any other stories from other sources that feature similar facial wounds?
5. What is your reaction to Rahim Khan’s letter to Amir? Should the letter have been presented to him earlier? Do **you** feel that Baba was a good man?
6. Consider your parents and how your opinions about them have changed as you have gotten older. Draw a parallel (if you can) between your concept of your parents and Amir’s concept of Baba.

THE KITE RUNNER
FINAL SECTION
pp. 303 – 372

1. “For *you a thousand times over*,” Farid said. And just like that I was crying.” Explain the importance of those words. (305)

2.” ***‘I dreamed Assef was standing in the doorway of my hospital room, brass ball still in his eye socket. We’re the same, you and I,’ he was saying. ‘You nursed with him, but you’re my twin.’***” Why do you think Amir dreamed this? (307)

3. Sohrab “perked up” at the sight of the **mosque** and the **soaring minarets**. What was he moved by? (311)

4. When Sohrab ran away to the mosque Amir wanted to know how the hotel manager could be so **oblivious** to his **apprehension**. (314)

5. “The thing about you Afghans is that . . . well, you people are a little **reckless**.” Who said this? Why did this man give Amir a **reproachful glare**? (316)

6. “*There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood.*” What did Amir mean? (318)

7. “*I saw that a kinship had taken root between us too. What had happened in that room with Assef had irrevocably bound us.*” (320) Explain the importance of these words.

8. Why do you think the author mentions hawks and crows circulating overhead so many times? (321, 371)

9. *Amir tells Sohrab he thinks Baba was ashamed of himself. Do you agree? (323)*

10. What is a **mullah**?

11. Why is it significant that Baba built an orphanage?

12. Who is **Raymond Andrews** and how does he function in the narrative?(328 – 332)

13. “**That’s how children deal with terror. They fall asleep.**” Explain the importance of those words. (342)

14. What is the significance of Sohrab trying to commit suicide in a bath?

15. “**Give ear unto the combat of Sohrab against Rostam, though it be a tale replete with tears.**”(353) What is the context of these words?

16. What does Sohrab's comment about "sour apples" suggest about his character?(340) Does it give us insight into the end of the novel?

17. What is your understanding of the end of the novel, especially Amir's final two words?

18. Re-read Chapters 1 and 2. How do the first and last chapters create "book ends" for the novel? Cite the themes that revolve, repeat, and spiral from the beginning to the end of *The Kite Runner*.

Vocabulary:

Match each numbered term with the letter that best defines it. Highlight each word in your book.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. squalid (329) | a. incorrect |
| 2. fabricated (330) | b. legal protection, safety from political punishment or war |
| 3. commodity (333) | c. poor and dirty |
| 4. INS (334) | d. negative premonition |
| 5. "preaching to the choir" (337) | e. uneven, slanted |
| 6. turmoil (338) | f. made up, manufactured |
| 7. asylum (339) | g. impossible to read, hear or understand |
| 8. indecipherable (342) | h. confusion |
| 9. to keep vigil (350) | i. item for sale |
| 10. ICU (350) | j. convincing people who are already on your side |
| 11. foreboding (353) | k. traditional head covering |
| 12. a "dead ringer" (354) | l. impolite, inconsiderate |
| 13. impassive (359) | m. immigration department |
| 14. erroneous (361) | n. wooden dowel around which sewing thread is wound; also film or tape reel |
| 15. caracul (363) | o. to watch over someone who is seriously ill or dead; to protect watchfully |
| 16. tactless (365) | p. hospital intensive care unit |
| 17. spool (367) | q. exact twin |
| 18. lopsided (371) | r. unemotional |

THE KITE RUNNER**PARTIAL VOCABULARY LIST (For Final Review)**

Go back over your handbook and text notes to make sure you understand *and are able to use* all of the terms below:

frigid, to peek, unatoned, crouch, hare-lipped (1), shard, pelted, appendage, flanked (4), to leer (7), unscrupulous, atrophy (8), to mock, Mongoloid features (9), disdain (10), garrulous (10), scoffed (15), aloofness (19), nomad(26), sultan (27), illiterate (28), imbecile (28), nemesis (29), irony (32), coup (36), knuckles (38), pummeled, relentless, trepidation (43), an ingrained sense of one's place in a hierarchy (42), ambush (43), circumcised (46), plummet (55), to taunt (54), to wreak havoc (64), resignation (76), imminent demise (77), indignation (78), insomniac (86), rekindle (87), periphery (88), metal rod treatment (91), grimace (107, my innards had been roiling (110), bile (111), lucrative (111), elopement, retching, curfew (113), to negate (115), stench (119), dank, mildew (119), snuff (120), encapsulated (123), to idle (123), wailing (124), sacrifice (135), legacy (140), swap meet (144), chastity (145), palliative (156), mosque (175), infertility (185), stillborn (209), unrequited loyalty (219)

MORE VOCABULARY REVIEW***KITE RUNNER***

1. "Ali never **retaliated** against any of his **tormentors**." A synonym for **retaliate** is _____.
The noun form of **retaliate** is _____.
2. Ali had **congenital** paralysis of his lower facial muscles. This means _____.
3. "Ali was **immune** to the insults of his **assailants**." Synonyms for **immune** and **assailants** are _____.
The noun form of **immune** is _____;
the verb form of **assailant** is _____.

4. The bond that existed between Ali and Baba and between Amir and Hassan is referred to as a _____.
5. Assef was **flanked** by obedient friends. **Flanked** means _____. Being **obedient** is different than being **loyal** because _____. **Unwavering loyalty** means _____. This phrase refers to which character? **Guileless loyalty** means _____. This refers to which character?
6. Why was the word **relentless** used in regard to Assef? What is the verb form of **relentless**?
7. Why does an encounter with Assef leave characters in **trepidation**?
8. “**Agha**” is a form of address used by the characters to signal _____.
9. Assef might be considered a **sociopath**. That is different from being a **psychopath** because _____.
10. A **foreshadowing** is different from a **recall** of events since _____.
11. The blue kite is described as “**wreaking havoc**.” What is the kite doing in the air? Havoc means _____.
12. A sacrificial lamb may not be aware of its **imminent demise**. Imminent demise means _____.
13. If you **slay** a lamb, what do you do? After this happens, the lamb is _____ (past participle of slay).

14. When Amir meets Hassan for the first time after the rape, he fears that Hassan's face will reflect **blame, indignation, or guileless devotion**. What is **indignation**?
15. There is more than one **rape** in the book. What kind of a crime is **rape**? Is it possible to say that Afghanistan was also **raped**? By whom?

INTERVIEW EXCHANGE: Watch the videotaped interview with the author KHALED HOSSEINI and answer the following questions

1. From the information you found in the interviews, how autobiographical is *The Kite Runner*?
2. What did Hosseini hope to accomplish in terms of writing specifically about Afghanistan?
3. What role did women play in Hosseini's family and in the Kabul he knew as a child? In the interview, when he refers to the notion of "protecting women from outside intrusion," what policy is he referring to? How does Hosseini feel about the story of Afghanistan women?
4. Returning to Afghanistan 27 years after he left, what does Hosseini see as the country's main problems?
5. Why did he return to Afghanistan?
6. What divided opinion exists among Afghans living in the U. S. regarding *The Kite Runner*? Why does Hosseini think the novel's taboo topics should be discussed by the Afghan Diaspora?

7. What does Hosseini feel the novel offers Western readers in terms of their understanding of Afghanistan? What do **you** think the novel offers people from your country?
8. What major change did Hosseini make in the novel regarding the protagonist? Do you think this was a wise decision?
9. How does Hosseini describe his writing process?
10. What other question did Hosseini answer in the interview you read which you found interesting?
11. What question would you like to ask Hosseini if you could interview him?

INTERNET SITES TO VISIT IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR FINAL ESSAY:

<http://www.khaledhosseini.com/>

http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/kite_runner.html

http://www.readinggroupguides.com/guides3/kite_runner1.asp

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0419887/>

<http://www.cincinnati.library.org/samepage/2005/tkrbook.html>

<http://www.manitowoc.lib.wi.us/readers/guides/kiterunner.htm>

http://www.bordersstores.com/features/feature.jsp?file=kiterunner_rg