



**Social Studies  
School Service**

[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com)

## Downloadable Reproducible eBooks

Thank you for purchasing this eBook from  
[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com) or [www.writingco.com](http://www.writingco.com).

---

To browse more eBook titles, visit  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail [eBooks@socialstudies.com](mailto:eBooks@socialstudies.com)

---

## Free E-mail Newsletter—Sign up Today!

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at  
<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

Individual Learning Packet

**Teaching Unit**

# The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

written by Elizabeth Scott

Copyright © 2008 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.  
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her  
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-060-1

Reorder No. 302960

## Note to Teacher

*The Kite Runner*, the first novel by Khaled Hosseini, is also the first novel published in English by an Afghani. It is set in both Afghanistan and the United States immediately before and during the rise of the Taliban. Hosseini was born in Afghanistan and immigrated to the United States in 1980. Much of the novel is drawn from his personal experience.

*The Kite Runner* contains some very strong profanity, derogatory language, references to drug use, and graphic descriptions of violence, including rape. This novel does deal with mature subject matter, including that of rape. Younger or more immature students may have difficulty with such subject matter.

All references come from the Riverhead Books edition of *The Kite Runner*, copyright 2003.

# The Kite Runner

## Terms and Definitions

*Allusion* – a reference to a person, place, poem, book, event, etc., which is not part of the story, that the author expects the reader will recognize. **Example:** In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tom speaks of “Chamberlain’s umbrella,” a reference to British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

*Antagonist* – the person or force that is in conflict with, or opposes, the protagonist. **Example:** Nurse Ratched opposes McMurphy throughout *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*.

*Autobiography* – the relating of a person’s life by that person. **Example:** *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

*Coming of Age* – a novel or other work of literature in which the main character or characters grow, mature, or understand the world in adult terms. **Examples:** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; *The Cay*

*Conflict* – the struggle that moves the action forward in a work of literature. There are three types of conflict, and most books include all three: *man versus man* (**Example:** a typical Western, in which the sheriff confronts the outlaw); *man versus nature* (**Example:** a story about someone surviving in a small boat on the ocean); *man versus himself* (**Example:** a character in a story fighting his or her own drug abuse). Some authorities consider *man versus society* a fourth category of conflict (**Example:** a character in a book fighting against the Nazis).

*Dialogue* – conversation between two or more characters.

*Epiphany* – a revelatory, personal experience through which the individual gains an insight, knowledge, or understanding of the self, other people, or the world. The situation itself may be important or trivial, but the understanding that emerges is life changing. **Examples:** When the Three Wise Men realize that the child they see is Divine, they experience an epiphany. Stephen Dedalus in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* has an epiphany when he observes a bird, which becomes the major turning point in his life.

*Figurative Language* – words and phrases that have meanings different from their usual ones in order to create a poetic and/or literary effect. **Examples:** Love certainly has its own seasons; crumbling cities made of matches.

*Flashback* – a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happened earlier. **Example:** The movie, *Citizen Kane*, tells its story almost exclusively through the memories of its characters, who all knew Kane before his death.

**Foreshadowing** – the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example:** Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby*.

**Inference** – the act of drawing a conclusion that is not actually stated by the author. **Example:** In *The Pigman*, John and Lorraine are writing a “memorial epic” about Mr. Pignati. Therefore, the reader may logically assume that Mr. Pignati dies in the book.

**Irony** – a perception of inconsistency, sometimes humorous, in which the significance and understanding of a statement or event is changed by its context. **Example:** The firehouse burned down.

- **Dramatic Irony** – the audience or reader knows more about a character’s situation than the character does and knows that the character’s understanding is incorrect. **Example:** In *Medea*, Creon asks, “What atrocities could she commit in one day?” The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon’s by day’s end.
- **Structural Irony** – the use of a naïve hero, whose incorrect perceptions differ from the reader’s correct ones. **Example:** *Huck Finn*.
- **Verbal Irony** – a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. **Example:** A large man whose nickname is “Tiny.”

**Metaphor** – a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar in which one is described in terms of the other. **Example:** The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

**Mood** – the emotional aspect of the work, which contributes to the feeling the reader gets from the book. **Example:** Gothic novels like *Frankenstein* have a gloomy, dark quality to them, which the author reflects through the depiction of nature, character, and plot.

**Motif** – a situation, incident, idea, or image that is repeated significantly in a literary work. **Examples:** In *Hamlet*, revenge is a frequently repeated idea. In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden continually comments on the phoniness of people he meets.

**Narrator** – the one who tells the story. The narrator must not be confused with “author,” the one who writes the story. If the narrator is a character in the book, the proper term is “first-person narration.” **Example:** *Moby Dick* is narrated by Ishmael, a crewmember. If the narrator is not a character in the book, the correct term is “third-person narration.” **Example:** *Sense and Sensibility*.

**Novel** – a fictional prose story that is usually lengthy. **Examples:** *The Once and Future King*; *Little Women*.

*Personification* – a figure of speech in which an object, abstract idea, or animal is given human characteristics. **Examples:** The wall did its best to keep out the invaders.

“Because I could not stop for Death,  
He kindly stopped for me.”

–Emily Dickinson

*Point of View* – the position or vantage point, determined by the author, from which the story seems to come to the reader. The two most common points of view are *First-person* and *Third-person*. **Examples:** *First-person point of view* occurs in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; the reader receives all information through Huck’s eyes. An example of *third-person point of view* is Dickens’ *Hard Times*, in which the narrator is not a character in the book.

*Sensory images* – the use of details from any, some, or all of the five senses. **Example:** He reached behind him, felt the wall, and was more secure.

*Setting* – when and where the short story, play, or novel takes place. **Examples:** *Macbeth* takes place in the eleventh century in Scotland. *The Old Man and the Sea* has its main setting on the ocean outside Havana, Cuba, in an unspecified time in the middle-to-late 20th-century.

*Simile* – a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. **Examples:** I am as hungry as a horse. The huge trees broke like twigs during the hurricane.

*Style* – the way an author chooses and uses words, phrases, and sentences to tell the story. For example, in an action/adventure story, the author may use simple words and short, choppy sentences, because this style moves the story along quickly. In a story about a college professor, the same author may choose to use polysyllabic, unfamiliar words, and long, convoluted sentences.

*Subplot* – a secondary, less important plot. **Example:** Polonius’ scheming over Laertes’ behavior is secondary to the main issue of Hamlet’s indecisiveness over the King’s murder.

*Symbol* – an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. **Example:** The sea could be symbolic for “the unknown.” Since the sea is something that is physical and can be seen by the reader, and also has elements that cannot be understood, it can be used symbolically to stand for the abstraction of “mystery,” “obscurity,” or “the unknown.”

*Theme* – the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example:** In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: “Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance.” In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: “Youth fades, and death comes to all.”

*Tone* – the atmosphere in a literary work or the attitude the author puts in a literary work. **Examples:** The gloom and representation of decay is the main tone of Poe’s *The Fall of the House of Usher*; the tone of *Catch-22* is one of sarcasm and absurdity.

# The Kite Runner

## Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. define and cite examples of:
  - conflict
  - simile
  - metaphor
  - antagonist
  - foreshadowing
  - symbol
  - flashback
  - point of view
  - epistle
2. understand the use of tone in specific scenes.
3. identify the subplot(s) and how they affect Amir throughout the novel.
4. define the vocabulary terms listed throughout the unit.
5. understand the author's style.
6. discuss the idea of territory and explain how location shapes Amir's idea of himself.
7. trace Amir's coming-of-age in the story, noting key points in his growth and development.
8. explain the importance of names in the book, giving relevant examples.
9. identify instances of foreshadowing and parallelism in the book.
10. describe the purpose and effect of the flashbacks throughout the story.
11. recall the plot elements in the story and give a chronological depiction of the events, without the insertion of flashbacks.
12. explain the many types of prejudice in the novel, and show how they affect the characters.



# The Kite Runner

## Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Compare Hitler and Assef. How are they the same? How do they differ?
2. Discuss why the date and location are given at the beginning of some chapters and not others. Even when the time and location change between chapters, Hosseini does not always state outright what the new setting is.
3. Why does Hosseini have Amir study English at college? How would the story have been different if this fact were changed?
4. Gender, education, socioeconomic status, religion, and class play an important role in this novel. How do they affect the characters' interactions and experiences?
5. The style of narration, including tense and perspective, changes through the story. What does this accomplish?
6. How does patriotism affect the characters, if at all?
7. Discuss the concept of forgiveness. What and who would the characters need to forgive, and explain how they might accomplish that.
8. The author often mentions the characters' sleeping habits. Though this is a normal part of life, it is generally not written in novels. Why does Hosseini write about his characters' sleeping habits?
9. There are several ironic incidents in the book. Discuss how Hosseini uses irony; which characters are aware of the irony, and how do they react to it?
10. How does Hosseini integrate modern concepts of Afghanistan?
11. Identify the main subject of this story. Supply information from the text to support your conclusion.
12. Why does Hosseini not reveal the rape in the beginning of the book? Is it, in your opinion, effective to put that scene in the middle? How would it have changed the basic plot if the scene had been placed in the beginning?
13. How do Amir and Baba change when they move to the United States? How does their relationship change?
14. Is *The Kite Runner* a tragedy? Why or why not? What similarities and dissimilarities does it share with classic Greek tragedy?

# The Kite Runner

## Test

### Multiple Choice

1. How did Amir's mother die?
  - A. She was killed by the Taliban.
  - B. She was killed by the Hazara.
  - C. She died of cancer.
  - D. She died in a car accident.
  - E. She died giving birth to him.
2. What does Hassan receive for his birthday the year before his last kite running?
  - A. a Japanese toy truck
  - B. an electric locomotive and train track set
  - C. a leather cowboy hat like Clint Eastwood's
  - D. surgery for his lip
  - E. nothing
3. Why does Amir stop talking to Hassan?
  - A. He does not know how to deal with Hassan's rape.
  - B. Hassan steals money from Amir.
  - C. Amir moves to the United States.
  - D. Hassan is better at kite running than Amir.
  - E. Hassan moves to the United States.
4. What is Hassan's son's name?
  - A. Sohrab
  - B. Ali
  - C. Baba
  - D. Hassan
  - E. Rahim
5. Who has Hassan's son when Amir goes to retrieve him?
  - A. Farid
  - B. Hassan
  - C. Rahim Khan
  - D. Assef
  - E. Thomas and Betty Caldwell

6. What do Baba and Amir do every Saturday in the United States?
  - A. drive around California to see more of the country
  - B. drive around California looking for garage sales
  - C. drive around California looking for friends and relatives from Afghanistan
  - D. drive around California to find Amir a wife
  - E. drive around California to find a house
7. How does Hassan die?
  - A. cancer
  - B. the Taliban
  - C. old age
  - D. an accident
  - E. Baba
8. What does Amir study at college?
  - A. teaching
  - B. history
  - C. geography
  - D. psychology
  - E. English
9. How does Baba die?
  - A. as a result of Hassan's actions
  - B. of old age
  - C. at the hands of the Taliban
  - D. from a serious accident
  - E. of incurable cancer
10. Why does Sohrab try to kill himself?
  - A. He does not want to go to the United States.
  - B. He does not want to go with Amir.
  - C. He does not want to leave Assef.
  - D. He does not want to leave his parents.
  - E. He does not want to go to the orphanage.
11. What causes Amir to go to the hospital?
  - A. He gets in a fight.
  - B. His wife is giving birth.
  - C. His father dies.
  - D. He is visiting Hassan.
  - E. He wants to become a doctor.

12. Why are the people killed at the soccer game?
  - A. They are murderers.
  - B. They are adulterers.
  - C. They are not Afghanis.
  - D. They try to stop the soccer game.
  - E. They do not like the local soccer team.
13. According to Baba, what is the only sin in life?
  - A. stealing
  - B. killing
  - C. lying
  - D. drinking alcohol
  - E. having sex before marriage
14. Why do Baba and Amir move to the United States?
  - A. to get better jobs
  - B. to find Amir's wife
  - C. to find Ali and Hassan
  - D. to escape the Russians
  - E. to get better medical treatment
15. How did Baba become rich?
  - A. He made a lot of good investments.
  - B. He married into money.
  - C. He inherited the money.
  - D. He won the lottery.
  - E. He is not rich.
16. What imagery does Sohrab use about going to America?
  - A. sun rising over the horizon
  - B. monsters in a lake
  - C. sour apples
  - D. crossing the river Styx
  - E. running kites
17. Amir and Baba get to Pakistan by
  - A. fuel tanker.
  - B. car.
  - C. bicycle.
  - D. walking.
  - E. airplane.

18. What does Assef give Amir for his birthday?
  - A. a framed picture of Hitler
  - B. nothing
  - C. the Koran
  - D. a soccer ball
  - E. a biography of Hitler
  
19. Why does Rahim Khan call Amir?
  - A. to tell him of his father's death
  - B. to give him a message from Hassan
  - C. to help him atone for his past
  - D. because he wants to borrow money
  - E. to say he had been imprisoned by the Taliban
  
20. What is Hassan doing when Assef confronts him?
  - A. bringing home a kite
  - B. buying a present for Amir
  - C. shopping for groceries
  - D. playing soccer
  - E. running away from home

# The Kite Runner

## Essay Questions (pick any two)

1. There are several types of conflict in this novel. Pick one, define it, and describe an example of it from the book. Then, show how this conflict changes Amir and the course of the story.
2. Analyze how class, religion, gender, and wealth affect the characters in the story. Pick at least three characters to discuss and support your analysis with evidence from the text.
3. Baba says, “There is no act more wretched than stealing.” (Pg. 18) In a well-designed essay, discuss how this attitude shapes his life and the life of his son. Support your thesis with details from the novel.
4. Discuss kites and kite running as symbols. Provide specific examples from the book to support your ideas.
5. Most of the characters, major and minor, wrestle with guilt. Compare the guilt of three or more characters. How do they express it? How do they deal with it? How do they purge themselves, if at all? Be sure to cite specific incidences from *The Kite Runner*.

# The Kite Runner

## Test Answer Key

1.	E	6.	B	11.	A	16.	C
2.	D	7.	B	12.	B	17.	A
3.	A	8.	E	13.	A	18.	E
4.	A	9.	E	14.	D	19.	C
5.	D	10.	E	15.	A	20.	A

# The Kite Runner

## Chapter One December 2001

### Vocabulary

**unatoned** – not made up for; unsettled

1. What image does the narrator show at the beginning of the novel and what does it mean?

*He sees a pair of kites flying above the city. It is obvious from this opening image, and the book's title, that kites are going to play a vital role in the story.*

2. What literary tool or tools does Hosseini use in this chapter and how does his usage frame the story?

*He uses foreshadowing, sensory images, and personification. From the beginning, it is evident that this will be a story of the narrator's past and how it affects his life. Something happened in his childhood that he could not resolve until adulthood.*

## Chapter Two

### Vocabulary

**garrulous** – talkative

**Herati** – from Herat, a city in Afghanistan known for its weaving

1. Why does Hassan always do what Amir wants and never tells on Amir?

*He loves Amir as a brother and a friend.*

2. What does it mean that, in the picture of Baba and Rahim Khan, Amir is holding onto Rahim Khan?

*Even as an infant, Amir is closer to a family friend than his own father.*



3. Why did Amir go into Hassan's home "only a handful of times"?

*Hassan was Amir's servant and there was no reason for Amir to visit him. It clearly demonstrates the separation between the two.*

4. Why is Sanaubar's leaving "far worse than death"?

*Honor and commitment are highly valued by the Afghans and she turned her back on both when she eloped.*

5. Why does Amir recount the story about the nursing woman and Ali's belief that feeding from the same breast leads to a kinship stronger than time?

*He is emphasizing the relationship between the two boys and the fact that they receive nourishment from the same source, giving them a brotherly alliance that will last their entire lives.*

6. Amir's first word was "Baba." Hassan's was "Amir." How does this frame the rest of the story?

*It foreshadows the fact that the relationships between Amir and Baba and between Hassan and Amir will be central to the plot and themes of the novel.*

## Chapter Three

### Vocabulary

**blundering** – clumsy  
**caracul** – lambskin  
**chortle** – laugh  
**furtive** – secretive  
**havoc** – chaos, disarray  
**lore** – popular knowledge  
**mullah** – a religious teacher  
**obstinate** – stubborn, inflexible  
**opportune** – well-timed  
**scraggy** – scrawny  
**shambled** – moved awkwardly  
**squalled** – cried loudly  
**tittering** – giggling  
**veracity** – truthfulness  
**wretched** – despicable, low, unworthy

1. What does Amir mean when he says, “I can never tell Baba from the bear”?

*In his dreams, the bear and Baba are interchangeable. He sees Baba as inhuman and beastly, frightening.*

2. How does Baba’s snoring affect Amir?

*He can hear it no matter what he does to block it out. Even in sleep, he cannot escape Baba, whose presence is overwhelming.*

3. Why does Amir tell Baba he thinks he has cancer?

*He suspects that, even though they are alone together, Baba is not paying attention to him and wants to test that theory.*

4. Why does Amir hate the orphans?

*Because of them, Baba is building an orphanage that keeps him out late and away from Amir.*

5. Amir says, "... I *had* killed his beloved wife, his beautiful princess, hadn't I? The least I could have done was to have had the decency to have turned out a little more like him." What does this mean and how does it affect Amir's relationship with Baba?

*Amir feels Baba resents him for killing his wife, who had died giving birth to Amir. In a way, Amir stole her from Baba, and stealing is the only sin Baba recognizes. Amir feels he can never live up to Baba's expectations and that Baba wished he were not Amir's father. Amir sometimes hates his father, and he often feels that Baba hates him in return.*

6. What is Afghanistan's national passion, and what does it say about the country?

*It is Buzkashi, a brutal sport that encourages violence. The people revel in the gore and primitive, animalistic fighting. The sport indicates that the general population accepts brutality as a normal part of life, quite the opposite of Amir's beliefs. Since Afghanistan has been involved in wars, invasions, and occupations throughout its entire existence, and especially since the Soviet Union invaded in 1979, which caused major disruptions and hardships, their acceptance of violence is not surprising.*

## Chapter Four

### Vocabulary

**amends** – compensation  
**feigned** – faked, false  
**hone** – sharpen, improve  
**imbecile** – a stupid person  
**impeccable** – flawless  
**mewling** – weak crying  
**musty** – stale, moldy  
**obstinacy** – stubbornness

1. Why did Baba never call Ali his "friend"?

*Ali is his social inferior, being a servant and of the "wrong" religion and ethnic background.*

2. Why were "most Hazaras" illiterate?

*Because they were not of the ruling class (the Pashtuns), they were all destined to be servants, and servants had no need to read or write.*

3. Why do the boys react differently to the story of Rostam and Sohrab?

*Hassan appreciates the love and irony of the story. Amir cannot imagine anyone caring that much for his father or his son and so has a lesser understanding of what the story really means.*

4. What is the significance of Hassan's question about Amir's story?

*It shows a difference in world-view between the two boys. Hassan could see a happier and brighter ending than Amir. He also, though younger and less formally educated, shows a keen sense of story-telling.*

## Chapter Five

### Vocabulary

**akin** – similar

**beget** – cause, bring on

**cackled** – laughed with a high-pitched tone

**constitutional monarchy** – a government in which the powers of the king or queen are restricted by a constitution

**coyly** – shyly

**fag** – an offensive term for a gay man

**grandiose** – more complicated than necessary

**loins** – the area around the hips

**lorries** – trucks

**nuances** – very small differences

**preceded** – came before

**republic** – a form of government in which the people have control

**sociopath** – a person who lacks a sense of right and wrong

**trepidation** – trembling fear

1. Why would Amir be envious of Hassan during the gunfire?

*Ali openly shows affection to Hassan, by hugging him, and Amir never receives the same type of love from Baba.*

2. What does Assef mean when he says, “Too late for Hitler...[b]ut not for us”?

*Hitler was stopped before he completed his plan of genocide and world domination. Assef thinks the Pashtuns could be like Hitler.*

3. Why are the boys and their fathers so affected by the gift Baba gives to Hassan?

*It is something more meaningful and enduring than the toys he had always bought. It would affect the rest of Hassan's life in a positive way and is a sign of Baba's love for Hassan and Ali.*

## Chapter Six

### Vocabulary

**abhor** – hate  
**coveted** – loved, desired  
**crinkled** – squinted  
**epilepsy** – a disorder characterized by convulsions  
**hovel** – a small, poor house  
**indignation** – anger at something offensive  
**integrity** – moral character, honesty  
**pardoned** – forgiven for a crime committed  
**pattering** – light tapping sounds  
**roiling** – rolling, rumbling; annoying  
**spars** – wooden poles used to support the kites  
**specter** – a ghost, disturbing image  
**viable** – reasonable, acceptable

1. What does Amir mean when he says, “Afghans cherish custom but abhor rules”?

*They follow the old ways and old habits as much as possible but do not tolerate being told what to do.*

2. What happens during the conversation between Amir and Hassan about eating dirt?

*The boys get a moment of true understanding of their social status. They each realize that if Amir seriously told Hassan to eat dirt, Hassan would; they are in Afghanistan, and he is Hazara and Shi'a, and Amir is Pashtun and Sunni.*

3. Why does Amir say he is a ghost in his father's house?

*He feels that he has no place there or in his father's life. Another issue is that his father mostly ignores him for not being more similar to the way he is and for being responsible for the death of his wife.*

## Chapter Seven

### Vocabulary

**adjacent** – next door  
**austere** – serious  
**bisecting** – dividing in half  
**blameless** – innocent  
**curtly** – shortly, roughly  
**demise** – death  
**dwindling** – decreasing in number  
**huddling** – gathering close together  
**imminent** – about to occur  
**lame** – crippled  
**milling** – wandering around  
**morose** – gloomy  
**redemption** – rescue from sin  
**sallow** – sickly yellow  
**secluded** – solitary, hidden  
**shirked** – avoided  
**shrill** – high-pitched  
**squabbling** – bickering  
**tabla and harmonium** – traditional musical instruments, drums and an organ  
**taut** – tight  
**tremor** – tremble, shaking  
**unabashedly** – openly, not disguised  
**vindication** – justification, defense

1. Why does Amir not apologize to Hassan for being rude about his dream?

*He says that Hassan understood that he is just nervous. In reality, he feels that he does not need to apologize to him. He never had in the past and he does not begin now. Though they are friends and almost brothers, Hassan is his inferior. Amir is not comfortable apologizing to Hassan.*

2. Why does Hassan tell Amir about the dream?

*He understands that Amir is worried about the tournament and wants to reassure him in a way that he feels Amir will not reject immediately, as he would if Hassan tried to talk to him about his fears and worries directly.*

3. How does the blood from the kite string accentuate the kite flying scene?

*It marks the physical sacrifice Amir is making for Baba and mirrors the emotional sacrifices he has made. It likewise shows the sacrifices Hassan makes for Amir.*

4. What is strange about Amir's vision of himself and his father meeting in the same way as Rostam and Sohrab?

*Amir expects recognition and a pleasant life with his father, but in the story of Rostam and Sohrab, the father killed the son.*

5. Why does Amir not give his hand to the fortune-teller?

*He is afraid of what the man will say. He returned Hassan's money to him, and Amir fears that his future will be worse than Hassan's because Hassan is purer than he is.*

6. What do you think Amir's dream means?

*It is implied that the hand that rescues him is Hassan's. Hassan gives Amir's life color, happiness, and warmth, but Amir does nothing to stop Assef's attack on Hassan.*

7. What is the motivation behind Hassan's rape?

*Assef was humiliated by Hassan before, when he was threatened with the slingshot. He also has a hatred for those he considers "beneath" him (the Hazaras specifically), and he enjoys tormenting those weaker than he. Because the three found Hassan alone without his slingshot, Assef had the chance to reassert his dominance.*

8. Why does Amir not help Hassan?

*He is afraid of Assef, of being hurt, and of losing the kite, which would also mean the loss of Baba's approval and love.*

9. Amir compares Hassan to the sacrificial lamb. Why is this significant?

*Hassan is sacrificing himself, willingly or not, for Amir.*

10. What prejudicial thought enters the narrator's mind as he runs away?

*Amir rationalizes that Hassan's paying the price of rape is acceptable because "He was just a Hazara, wasn't he?"*

11. Why did Amir not want to see devotion in Hassan's eyes after the rape?

*It would mean that Hassan underwent the pain and humiliation for Amir; it would also indicate that Hassan knew Amir saw the rape, but did nothing, so it was something Hassan endured willingly.*

12. What literary term is employed in describing the Hassan's sacrifice as a "lamb," and what other is used in describing Amir's words to Hassan?

*The use of "lamb" is both an allusion and a metaphor. Describing his words as being "like chewing on a rock" is a simile.*

## Chapter Eight

### Vocabulary

**harried** – rushed; worried  
**sloughing** – shedding, coming off

1. Why does Baba invite so many people on the trip to Jalalabad?

*Family is important to him. Though Amir thinks it should be a trip just for him and Baba, Baba feels obligated to visit the relatives in the area and does not want to slight anyone, so the party grows in size.*

2. How is the relationship between Amir and Hassan emphasized in this chapter?

*Hassan obeys Amir even though he does not want to, and even though he knows it would be better to disobey. Because he is a Hazara servant, he is not Amir's equal, no matter what their personal ties and feelings are.*

3. Why does Amir invite Hassan to the hill?

*He hopes that his secret will come out, that they will have a fight and Hassan will punish him for it. He wants someone else to acknowledge what happened so he can put it past him but not be responsible for its revelation.*

4. What is significant about the pomegranates growing on the hill?

*Pomegranates represent fertility and growth. Amir had invited Hassan to go with him to resolve the conflict, so their relationship could continue. However, the meeting does not go well, and the very symbol of growth is used as a lever to push the two apart.*



5. Why does Rahim Khan tell Amir about Homaira?

*He is trying to get Amir to open up to him about Hassan.*

## Chapter Nine

### Vocabulary

**loquat** – a small fruit-bearing tree

**sluiced** – poured down

1. Why does Amir call his birthday gifts “blood money”?

*Amir knows that the only reason that people are coming to his party is because of Baba, and that Baba threw the party only because he needed to show the community his love for Amir.*

2. Why is Rahim Khan’s present not considered blood money by Amir?

*It was given to him out of love, not obligation to Amir’s father.*

3. Why does Amir ask Baba if he had seen the new watch?

*He wants Baba to think it is missing so he can blame Hassan for stealing it.*

## Chapter Ten

### March 1981

### Vocabulary

**elopement** – stealthy leaving

**embankment** – a mound used to hold back water

**purse** – pucker

1. How does the confrontation between Baba and the Russian soldier make Amir feel?

*Amir is afraid for Baba’s life, but he also recognizes the difference between him and Baba. His father would risk his own life for a stranger, but Amir was not willing to risk being beaten and let his best friend be raped.*

2. Who is Kamal and what happened to him?

*He was one of Assef's followers prior to the occupation, one of the boys who had held down Hassan; he had been gang raped, most likely by the Russian soldiers who had killed his mother.*

3. What first gives light in the tanker and why does it matter?

*Baba's wristwatch had fluorescent hands that glowed. A watch is what saved Amir's sanity, and what caused Ali and Hassan to leave.*

4. What happens to Kamal's father?

*To get across the border, people are sometimes smuggled inside empty fuel trucks, and, consequently, must breathe the air there, which is heavily contaminated with gasoline fumes. After arriving in Peshawar, Pakistan, Kamal dies from "fumes." In anger and frustration, Kamal's father grabs a gun and commits suicide.*

## Chapter Eleven Fremont, California, 1980s

### Vocabulary

**acrid** – bitter

**discern** – make out, see

**pungent** – strong-smelling

**Reganomics** – a derogatory term for former President Ronald Reagan's economic plan of tax cuts, low social services spending, and high military spending

**smoldering** – showing repressed anger

1. Why does Baba not want to take ESL classes?

*He is too proud to accept help. He does not want to acclimate to the United States any more than he absolutely has to. He feels that his life in the Afghani community is enough.*

2. Why does Amir say that the last time he sacrificed for Baba he damned himself?

*The last time he sacrificed himself, Hassan was raped.*

3. Why is Amir surprised that Baba says he is going to become a “great” writer?

*Baba had not wanted Amir to write or go to school for creative writing, but he bragged to General Taheri as if he were very proud of Amir's desires for the future.*

4. Whom does Amir meet, and what does he think of this person?

*He meets a young woman named Soraya jan, the daughter of General Taheri, and he is struck by her beauty.*

5. What is ironic about Baba's statement, “[W]hat happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole lifetime”?

*Baba refers to the probability that the girl Amir has just met had a relationship with a man, but “things... didn't go well.” In addition, Baba does not know what had happened between Amir and Hassan, which is a primary focus of the novel. Both events have major significance in the book.*

6. What is the literary term that describes the sentence, “America was a river, roaring along, unmindful of the past”?

*There are two answers: the comparison is a metaphor, and the description is personification.*

## Chapter Twelve

### Vocabulary

**brunt** – main burden  
**chastise** – criticize; punish  
**coiffed** – done up, styled  
**crinkling** – wrinkling  
**dappled** – spotted  
**furtive** – sly, glancing  
**hacking** – coughing harshly  
**insinuation** – indirect hint, usually negative  
**metastasized** – spread to other parts of the body  
**oncologist** – a doctor who specializes in treating cancer  
**palliative** – soothing without curing  
**phlegm** – mucus  
**prognosis** – a forecast of how a disease will progress  
**reticence** – hesitance, reserved behavior  
**slouch** – droop, bend  
**smirk** – smug smile  
**tenets** – strongly held beliefs

1. Why is General Taheri's wife described as having "heartbreakingly eager, crooked smile and ...barely veiled hope in her eyes"?

*She knows that Amir is attracted to her daughter and hopes that he will marry her. Because of the rumors of Soraya's history, most men would find her unsuitable for marriage, and no one had proposed, though she is old enough to be wed.*

2. What is the General's reaction to Amir's giving Soraya a short story?

*He throws it in the garbage can.*

3. Why does Baba refuse chemotherapy?

*He is too proud to do something that would make it seem he is "giving in" to his weakness. He knows he will die and believes it would be undignified to prolong his life merely for the sake of living. Additionally, he demands that Amir not discuss the cancer with anyone.*

4. What significant thing does Amir ask of his ill father? What is the result?

*According to Afghani tradition, Amir's father must ask General Taheri for permission for Amir and Soraya to be married. Despite Baba's condition, he agrees to do so. The General agrees to the upcoming wedding, and Soraya reveals her past to Amir—she had lived with an Afghani who used drugs. Therefore, she is not “pure,” which bothers Amir a bit. He, however, thinks of his shame at not interfering in the rape, and considers Soraya “a better person” than he is.*

## Chapter Thirteen

### Vocabulary

**alluding** – referring to without saying  
**bouffant** – puffed out  
**chagrin** – shame, embarrassment  
**console** – comfort  
**maverick** – a dissenter, someone who does not follow the majority  
**meticulous** – detailed-oriented, precise  
**petty** – mean about unimportant things  
**posh** – rich, comfortable  
**slurring** – speaking indistinctly

1. Why does Amir want to cry when he gives his notebook to Soraya?

*Baba had asked her to read Amir's stories from his childhood to him. He wanted to hear Amir's childhood stories, having accepted that his son would be a writer. It also reminds Amir of the past and of Hassan.*

2. Why does Amir say that Baba dies “on his own terms”?

*He dies after he has seen Amir settled and respectably married. He also had refused treatment for the cancer and lived his last weeks instead of letting the disease take over his entire life. In addition, in an instance of understatement, Baba says that morphine will not be necessary because, “There is no pain tonight,” and the narrator adds, “he never woke up.”*

3. Why does General Taheri not like Soraya's choice to become a teacher?

*He feels it is beneath her. He also does not want his daughter to do work that would possibly make him look worse in others' eyes.*

4. Why does Amir think he and Soraya cannot have children?

*He feels it is punishment for his past.*

5. After Amir's novel is accepted for publication, what does he reminisce about?

*Amir thinks about his father and that his book would have made Baba proud. He also thinks of Hassan's words, "Someday...you will be a great writer, and people all over the world will read your stories."*

## Chapter Fourteen June 2001

### Vocabulary

**afterglow** – a comfortable feeling after something pleasurable

**frailty** – physical weakness

**futility** – uselessness, ineffectiveness

**protracted** – overly long

**soliloquies** – speeches mostly to oneself

1. How much time has passed since the last chapter? Why does Hosseini juxtapose the images of a man playing football with his son and a pair of kites flying in the park?

*It is fifteen years later. Some students may answer that ten years have passed, but the narrator uses the phrase, "fifteen years of marriage."*

*The football represents the United States and Amir's current life, while the kites are his past. Now that he must go to Pakistan to see Rahim Khan, a former business partner of his father who is sick, both images fit together.*

2. What does Khala Jamila do when the general is in the hospital, and why does she do it?

*She sings Afghani songs when he is asleep because he had forbidden her to sing when they married. She loved to sing and loves the general and wants to have a connection to Afghanistan while he is ill. She feels that memories of his homeland will make him stronger.*

3. Why can Amir not sleep on the plane to Pakistan?

*Student answers will vary. Example: Sleep is a method of escape. He had been avoiding his past most of his life, and now that he is about to confront it, he no longer has the luxury of escaping, even through sleep.*

## Chapter Fifteen

### Vocabulary

**aptness** – truthfulness, appropriateness  
**chuff** – a noisy puffing sound  
**clichés** – statements said so many times that they are overused and meaningless  
**garrulous** – talkative, outgoing  
**gaunt** – extremely thin  
**gnarled** – bent or twisted  
**incessant** – never-ending  
**melancholic** – sad, gloomy  
**negligent** – neglectful  
**nonchalantly** – casually, unconcernedly  
**pragmatic** – practical  
**rickshaws** – two-wheeled passenger carts pulled by a person  
**samovar** – a metal urn used to boil water for tea  
**Taliban** – the extremist group that ruled Afghanistan until the U.S invasion  
**wallow** – to indulge; devote excessive amounts of time to something

1. The previous time Amir and Rahim Khan had spoken on the phone, Baba had just died. The two only spoke for a few minutes before they lost the intercontinental connection. How is this significant?

*Student answers will vary. Example: Amir's old life was fading away and he could do nothing to stop it and did not want to stop it; he could have found and called Rahim Khan back. Instead, he continued with his life in the United States. It was not until the call indicating that Rahim is ill that Amir thinks directly of his own past and his father's partner.*

2. When Amir tells Rahim Khan about the stories he wrote in the journal that was his birthday present, Rahim Khan says he does not remember it. Why is this mentioned?

*The journal was the only gift Amir received that year that meant anything to him, and it was what propelled him to his writing career. Rahim Khan helped Amir become the man he is, but did not remember his own influence.*

3. What is the situation in Afghanistan as Khan describes it?

*Khan details the oppression placed on the people by the Taliban. He explains how he received a scar, the terror of travel, the killings, the way people had to move around, and the religious fanaticism.*

## Chapter Sixteen

### Vocabulary

**polio** – a viral disease that results in deformity and sometimes paralysis

**presumptuous** – too forward; going beyond what is proper

**proverbial** – the subject of a proverb (a popular saying about a common belief or truth)

**sober** – serious

**temperament** – a person's nature

1. Why does the narration shift from Amir to Rahim Khan in this chapter?

*The story can be more immediate this way, instead of being told through Amir. It is also easier to write this way than using multiple sets of quotes.*

2. Why does Rahim Khan say that stepping on a land mine is a very Afghan way to die?

*It is a death by violence and war, by man-made means, not natural. It is perpetrated on Ali, not by him.*

3. Hassan and his wife make a huge decision. What is it?

*They ask to move to Kabul with Khan to help him care for his house.*

4. Who collapses at the front door?

*Hassan's mother, Sanubar, has returned after many years. She lives to see Hassan's child reach four years old, then she dies.*

5. After the Taliban "rolled in and put an end to the daily fighting," what ironic event takes place?

*The Taliban stop all kite fighting and "massacred the Hazaras."*



## Chapter Seventeen

### Vocabulary

**conjure** – to make appear as if by magic  
**evicted** – thrown out, expelled  
**pretext** – stated reason to hide the real one  
**tranquil** – calm, peaceful  
**unrequited** – not returned

1. In the letter to Amir, Hassan tells him that the pomegranate tree they used to play near “hasn’t borne fruit in years.” How is this a symbol, and for what?

*It symbolizes the relationship between Hassan and Amir. They never recovered as a pair from the day Hassan was raped. Amir has never forgiven himself. The tree also symbolizes the fragile state of Afghanistan. Though the country still existed, it cannot thrive because of the continual warfare and invasions.*

2. What happened to Hassan and his wife?

*They were killed by the Taliban because the “savages,” as Hassan called them, wanted the house, one of the best in the area, for themselves.*

3. What does Rahim Khan want from Amir?

*He wants Amir to travel to Kabul, Afghanistan, and bring Hassan’s child, Sohrab, back.*

4. What mystery is brought up in the final pages of this chapter?

*The mystery is who Hassan’s actual parents were. It is not revealed, but, most likely, either Hassan and Amir are half-brothers, with Baba as their father, or Rahim is Hassan’s father. These possibilities are unacceptable to Amir. The truth is revealed in the next chapter.*

## Chapter Eighteen

### Vocabulary

**Lollywood** – a nickname for Pakistan’s film industry, taken from “Hollywood” and “Lahore,” the city where Pakistan’s movie production is based  
**smothers** – suffocates  
**swathed** – covered as if with cloth

1. Why did everyone lie to Amir and Hassan about the boys’ upbringing?

*Baba dishonored Ali by getting Sanaubar pregnant. Neither man wanted the children to grow up with that stigma attached to them, and in that society the men did not have the cultural freedom to explain to their sons why the truth had to remain concealed.*

2. Why did Rahim Khan summon Amir to Pakistan?

*He thought the only way to atone for everyone’s sins—his, Amir’s, Ali’s, and Baba’s—was for Amir to bring Hassan’s child back from Afghanistan.*

## Chapter Nineteen

### Vocabulary

adobe – clay  
animosity – hatred  
apprehensively – with worry  
arduous – hard, painful  
arid – extraordinarily dry  
cringed – shrank away  
dilapidated – badly worn and unstable  
emaciated – unhealthily thin  
empathy – pity, understanding  
impregnated – filled, penetrated  
riveting – fascinating  
ruminate – meditate, ponder  
strained – forced, stressed  
surly – unpleasant, rude  
tarnish – dullness

1. Amir calls America a “great, big river” that would let him “forget.” To what does this allude?

*It alludes to the river Styx of Greek mythology. The river divides the land of the living from the afterlife. Any who cross the river forget their past lives so they can continue in death.*

2. Why does Farid dislike Amir?

*He thinks Amir is just another American tourist coming back to see the “old country” in an effort to feel better about himself, or possibly to sell off family land just for the money. He thinks Amir’s visit is pointless and that, although Amir might wish to do good deeds, he will end up doing nothing useful. He also resents Amir’s former affluent status in Afghanistan*

3. What does Farid mean by “the real Afghanistan”?

*He feels that, because Amir grew up in privilege and wealth, he never experienced truly living in Afghanistan. Amir had everything given to him and was more westernized than most of the population.*

4. Why does Amir cringe when Wahid calls him a “true Afghan”?

*He does not want Farid to dislike him even more, and he knows that, on some level, Farid was right in his assessment, but doesn’t want to be thought of in that way.*

5. What does Amir give to Wahid's sons and why is it significant?

*He gives them his digital watch. Baba had given a watch to Amir for his thirteenth birthday, and Amir had planted it under Hassan's mattress so Baba would fire Ali and Hassan.*

6. Why does Amir dream that he is Hassan's murderer?

*He feels responsible for the killing. He had been too cowardly to try to stop the rape, and then he was the reason that Ali and Hassan left. He feels that had he done things differently, Hassan and Ali could have been safe in the United States with Baba and Amir.*

## Chapter Twenty

### Vocabulary

**absurdity** – something that makes no sense  
**carcasses** – dead bodies, usually of animals  
**destitute** – beyond poor, without anything  
**dispenses** – hands out  
**profoundly** – completely, deeply  
**ramshackle** – loosely held together  
**relic** – an ancient object of value  
**spittle** – spit, saliva  
**stupefied** – stunned, overwhelmed  
**Sufism** – a type of Islamic mysticism that involves communication directly with God through meditation  
**unadulterated** – complete, pure

1. Why does Hosseini compare the tanks to dead animals?

*He is dehumanizing the landscape. The tanks are proof of the war, but they are just another part of the barren ground the people live close to every day.*

2. Why does Farid open up to Amir on the journey? What is Kabul like?

*He had learned that Amir is in Afghanistan to rescue his half-nephew, not just because of a feeling of guilt or to make money.*

*Kabul is very different from the way Amir remembers it—more child beggars, few fathers, rubble, broken walls, no kite shops, windowless buildings, collapsed buildings, debris, and no trees. The smell of lamb kabob has been replaced by diesel fumes.*

3. Why does Farid call the Taliban “Beard Patrol”?

*The Taliban is out looking for people they can punish for not following the rules, one of which is that men should wear long beards.*

4. Why does the man at the orphanage not want to admit he knew Sohrab?

*He is afraid that Farid and Amir are with the Taliban and have come to take Sohrab into some sort of slavery.*

5. Why does Farid want to kill Zaman?

*He thinks that Zaman is neglecting his duty as orphanage director by actually selling some of the children to the Taliban. Zaman had been put into a position of trust and is betraying it. Farid, as a father, cannot stand for that.*

6. Why does Zaman continue to sell children?

*He needs the money to feed the others, and if he does not sell them some, the Taliban would simply take more children into slavery.*

## Chapter Twenty-One

### Vocabulary

**doe-eyed** – having large, dark eyes  
**pitch** – a field for sports  
**sanctity** – sacredness, holiness  
**semi-lunar** – in the shape of a half-moon  
**Shari’a** – a set of laws based on the Quran  
**sultry** – sensual, causing desire

1. What does Amir find?

*He is able to locate his old house, and he remembers some of the times he and Hassan had there.*

2. Why does Farid’s comment about Sohrab being Shi’a make Amir think Afghanistan is a “hopeless place”?

*Even in the twenty-first century, even having survived the invasions by the Russians and then by the Taliban, Farid still sees the Shi’a as inferior. With this narrow thinking so prevalent, Afghanistan will have troubles becoming a modern country.*

3. Why are the two people killed as the “halftime show” for the soccer match?

*They had committed adultery, and the Taliban want to show the public that they would not tolerate any deviance from the law they had set. It was a public display of power and extreme cruelty.*

## Chapter Twenty-Two

### Vocabulary

**epiphany** – a sudden realization or understanding  
**luminous** – shining, bright  
**mauve** – bluish purple  
**morbidly** – unhealthily  
**oblong** – shaped like a flattened circle  
**rouge** – makeup used to color cheeks  
**tremulous** – trembling, uncertain

1. What is significant about the fact that the house Amir and Farid go to is on the Street of the Guests?

*The person they are about to see is from the Taliban, who are not the rightful owners or occupiers of Afghanistan. Also, Amir is no longer a native, having come from the United States. Neither he nor Farid are welcome or comfortable during this part of their journey and do not plan to stay very long.*

2. What is surprising about the identity of the Talib who talks to Amir about taking the boy back?

*He knows Amir from the old days; his name is Assef, one of the boys who participated in the rape of Hassan. He also is using Sohrab, Hassan's child, as a sex slave.*

3. What choice does Assef give Amir?

*Amir may take the child, but must first pay for him by being beaten or fighting. Assef uses brass knuckles and breaks some of Amir's ribs, bloodies him, and nearly kills him.*

4. What is significant about the fact that Sohrab is the one who stops Assef? How is it accomplished?

*During all of their childhood, Hassan saved Amir from trouble. When Amir tries to rescue Sohrab, it is Hassan's son, Sohrab himself, who does the saving.*

*Sohrab shoots his slingshot and blinds Assef, who, earlier, had told the guards to allow Amir to leave if he was able.*

## Chapter Twenty-Three

### Vocabulary

**absolve** – free from guilt  
**paunchy** – having a large belly  
**splenectomy** – removal of the spleen

1. Why does Hosseini change from past tense to present?

*He wanted to emphasize Amir's shifting sense of time. This shift in tense also lends to the confusion Amir is feeling after the beating, while he is in the hospital.*

2. What does Amir's dream of Baba fighting the bear mean?

*Amir is finally seeing himself as being worthy of carrying Baba's name. Until he returned to Afghanistan and discovered Sohrab, he had been burdened with guilt and remorse over his past and the relationship he had with Baba. After rescuing Sohrab, he can start to see himself as the son Baba wanted.*

3. List some of the injuries Amir has.

*He suffered a severely lacerated lip, reminiscent of Hassan's harelip, a ruptured spleen, seven broken ribs, a punctured lung, a fractured eye socket, and broken teeth.*

4. What is ironic about Amir's relationship with Sohrab?

*Answers will vary. Example: Sohrab knows that Amir and Hassan were nursed by the same woman and that Amir was "the best friend he [Hassan] ever had." Amir's guilt over his failure to intercede in the rape, however, prevents him from agreeing with the boy. Then Sohrab claims that as close as Amir and Hassan were, he and Amir are closer: "You nursed with him, but you're my twin."*

5. Why had Rahim Khan lied to Amir about the Caldwells?

*He knew that Amir would not search for Sohrab if he thought he would have to take care of Sohrab himself. Rahim, consequently, made up the story about the “Caldwells.” He had said that saving Sohrab would be Amir’s “way to be good again.”*

## Chapter Twenty-Four

### Vocabulary

**affable** – friendly  
**ascertain** – figure out, determine  
**asylum** – political security or safety  
**discretion** – freedom to make choices without outside influence  
**humanitarian visa** – a document that allows someone to live in a foreign country to avoid harm  
**milieu** – surroundings  
**nimbus** – a halo  
**persecution** – oppression  
**prick** – slang for a jerk  
**raving** – talking or behaving irrationally  
**slackened** – loosened, eased  
**turmoil** – conflict  
**Woodstock** – a rock music festival held in 1969

1. What happens to Sohrab while Amir sleeps?

*The boy disappears. Amir finally finds him at the Shah Faisal mosque.*

2. Why does Amir laugh when Mr. Fayyaz tells him that Afghanis are reckless?

*Amir had spent his life avoiding conflict and being safe. Since coming back to Afghanistan, he has gotten into a fight that hospitalized him and has taken on the responsibility of a child he had met only a few days prior. That Mr. Fayyaz sees only this “reckless” side of Amir is humorous because Amir had never done anything similar in his life before.*

3. What does it mean when Amir says, “There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood,” and how does it relate to Sohrab?

*There are many kids in Afghanistan, particularly ones without parents, and most of them never experience a “real” childhood of freedom and innocence. Because of constant wars, it is difficult to remain innocent and child-like.*



4. Why would Baba have been ashamed of himself regarding Hassan and Amir?

*He had violated the relationship between Ali and his wife in ways considered sinful in Afghan culture: he gave Ali a son whom he could not acknowledge openly, because it meant a mixing of Pashtun and Hazara and it showed infidelity on the part of Ali's wife, even though Ali and Baba both gave permission.*

5. Explain the significance of the television show that is on when Amir and Sohrab return from their picnic.

*It is a show for people to call in to get the opinion of two mullahs (religious teachers). The first caller they hear asks if his son will go to hell for wearing baggy pants. The clerics decide that he will go to hell for this. Both Amir and Sohrab have experienced worse sins than this, and yet the caller and the mullahs are taking the baggy pants question as seriously as any sin.*

6. What is significant about the decision Amir makes to be completely truthful with Soraya?

*It is prompted by his desire to adopt Sohrab, Hassan's son and Baba's grandson. He had spent his whole life keeping secrets and once he has the cathartic experience with Assef and has found Sohrab, he allows himself to open up and acknowledge the truth.*

7. Why does Amir ask Soraya to not tell her parents of Sohrab's origins?

*Answers will vary. Example: He realizes that they will not accept Sohrab because he is a Hazara born out of wedlock. He also knows that it will cause them to think much differently about Baba and Amir himself, and he does not want Soraya to have to face that by herself. He also wants to be the one to shock them with the truth. He is done with lying and being a "perfect" Afghani man.*

8. Why does Amir ask Mr. Andrews if he has children; what is the outcome of the question?

*Amir feels that Mr. Andrews is not being helpful and is actively trying to discourage him from his path. He wants to know if Mr. Andrews knows what it is to want a child. Mr. Andrews, as Amir and Sohrab are leaving, gives him the contact information for an immigration attorney in Islamabad. Amir later learns that Mr. Andrews's daughter committed suicide.*

9. Why does Sohrab not ask about the meeting between Amir and Andrews?

*Answers will vary. Example: He is used to having his life decided by other people. He also does not want to believe that something good could happen because, thus far, very little good had happened since his parents' murders.*

10. What obstacles arise about Amir's trying to bring Sohrab to the United States?

- *They cannot prove that Sohrab is an orphan.*
- *They cannot prove that Amir is Sohrab's half-uncle.*
- *Islamic law does not recognize adoption.*
- *Adoptions must be approved by the child's country of origin, and the United States has no embassy in Afghanistan, so there is almost no way for Sohrab to be officially adopted. The government is also too busy dealing with emergencies to worry much about adoptions.*
- *The INS would prefer to keep Sohrab in Afghanistan to preserve his heritage.*
- *Adoption agencies will want to inspect Sohrab's home, but will not want to send someone to Afghanistan.*

11. What does the sour apples story say about Sohrab?

*Answers will vary. Example: It proves that he is a child, even after all of his experiences. He also is very smart, remembering the story his mother told him and applying it to the current situation. He also has started to trust Amir and opens up to him by relating this personal story from his former life.*

12. What happens at the end of the chapter?

*Amir receives a call from Soraya, who tells him that a friend has arranged for Sohrab to be given a humanitarian visa. When Amir goes to tell Sohrab the good news, however, it is obvious that Sohrab has done something awful, probably attempted suicide. The narrator says, "Suddenly I was on my knees, screaming."*

## Chapter Twenty-Five

### Vocabulary

**catharsis** – a purifying release of emotions  
**curdled** – solid, thickened  
**eccentric** – unusual, strange  
**erroneous** – false  
**hustle** – energetic activity  
**impunity** – free from punishment or consequence  
**minarets** – tall slender towers attached to mosques  
**queries** – questions  
**replete** – full  
**serpentine** – winding, twisty  
**teeming** – crowded, full  
**trellis** – a framework of crossed slats used to support growing plants

1. What is significant about Amir praying in the hospital?

*He shunned religion all of his life. The possibility of Sohrab's death is important enough for him to begin to pray. Amir failed Hassan and does not want to fail Sohrab also.*

2. What is the significance of the various characters sleeping so much?

*Answers will vary. Example: Sleep is a method of escape. Amir escapes the reality of Sohrab's experiences in the hospital. Sohrab escapes the knowledge that Amir had lied to him and that he will have to adjust to a new life with Soraya and Amir in the United States. Amir also is concerned that he fell asleep "after [he] had given Sohrab the news he feared most." Soraya escapes her perceived inability to be a mother, since she cannot bear children and since she is unable to connect with Sohrab.*

3. What does Amir make sure the General understands?

*Answers will vary. Example: Amir tells the general the entire story of Sohrab's origin and insists Sohrab has a name and must never be referred to as simply "Hazara."*

4. What kind of child is Sohrab? What incident offers some hope?

*He is extremely quiet, even "silent." The narrator says of him, "Silence is pushing the OFF button. Shutting it down. All of it."*

*During a day spent in the park, the boy flies a kite for a while, learns about his father's ability at kite fighting, and, most importantly, smiles.*

# The Kite Runner

## Chapter One December 2001

### Vocabulary

**unatoned** – not made up for; unsettled

1. What image does the narrator show at the beginning of the novel and what does it mean?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What literary tool or tools does Hosseini use in this chapter and how does his usage frame the story?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Two

### Vocabulary

**garrulous** – talkative

**Herati** – from Herat, a city in Afghanistan known for its weaving

1. Why does Hassan always do what Amir wants and never tells on Amir?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does it mean that, in the picture of Baba and Rahim Khan, Amir is holding onto Rahim Khan?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Amir go into Hassan's home "only a handful of times"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is Sanaubar's leaving "far worse than death"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Amir recount the story about the nursing woman and Ali's belief that feeding from the same breast leads to a kinship stronger than time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Amir's first word was "Baba." Hassan's was "Amir." How does this frame the rest of the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Three

### Vocabulary

**blundering** – clumsy  
**caracul** – lambskin  
**chortle** – laugh  
**furtive** – secretive  
**havoc** – chaos, disarray  
**lore** – popular knowledge  
**mullah** – a religious teacher  
**obstinate** – stubborn, inflexible  
**opportune** – well-timed  
**scraggy** – scrawny  
**shambled** – moved awkwardly  
**squalled** – cried loudly  
**tittering** – giggling  
**veracity** – truthfulness  
**wretched** – despicable, low, unworthy

1. What does Amir mean when he says, “I can never tell Baba from the bear”?

---

---

---

---

2. How does Baba’s snoring affect Amir?

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Amir tell Baba he thinks he has cancer?

---

---

---

---

4. Why does Amir hate the orphans?

---

---

---

---

5. Amir says, "... I *had* killed his beloved wife, his beautiful princess, hadn't I? The least I could have done was to have had the decency to have turned out a little more like him." What does this mean and how does it affect Amir's relationship with Baba?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. What is Afghanistan's national passion, and what does it say about the country?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Four

### Vocabulary

**amends** – compensation  
**feigned** – faked, false  
**hone** – sharpen, improve  
**imbecile** – a stupid person  
**impeccable** – flawless  
**mewling** – weak crying  
**musty** – stale, moldy  
**obstinacy** – stubbornness

1. Why did Baba never call Ali his “friend”?

---

---

---

---

2. Why were “most Hazaras” illiterate?

---

---

---

---

3. Why do the boys react differently to the story of Rostam and Sohrab?

---

---

---

---

4. What is the significance of Hassan’s question about Amir’s story?

---

---

---

---



## Chapter Five

### Vocabulary

**akin** – similar

**beget** – cause, bring on

**cackled** – laughed with a high-pitched tone

**constitutional monarchy** – a government in which the powers of the king or queen are restricted by a constitution

**coyly** – shyly

**fag** – an offensive term for a gay man

**grandiose** – more complicated than necessary

**loins** – the area around the hips

**lorries** – trucks

**nuances** – very small differences

**preceded** – came before

**republic** – a form of government in which the people have control

**sociopath** – a person who lacks a sense of right and wrong

**trepidation** – trembling fear

1. Why would Amir be envious of Hassan during the gunfire?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What does Assef mean when he says, “Too late for Hitler...[b]ut not for us”?

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why are the boys and their fathers so affected by the gift Baba gives to Hassan?

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Six

### Vocabulary

**abhor** – hate  
**coveted** – loved, desired  
**crinkled** – squinted  
**epilepsy** – a disorder characterized by convulsions  
**hovel** – a small, poor house  
**indignation** – anger at something offensive  
**integrity** – moral character, honesty  
**pardoned** – forgiven for a crime committed  
**pattering** – light tapping sounds  
**roiling** – rolling, rumbling; annoying  
**spars** – wooden poles used to support the kites  
**specter** – a ghost, disturbing image  
**viable** – reasonable, acceptable

1. What does Amir mean when he says, “Afghans cherish custom but abhor rules”?

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happens during the conversation between Amir and Hassan about eating dirt?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Amir say he is a ghost in his father's house?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Seven

### Vocabulary

**adjacent** – next door  
**austere** – serious  
**bisecting** – dividing in half  
**blameless** – innocent  
**curtly** – shortly, roughly  
**demise** – death  
**dwindling** – decreasing in number  
**huddling** – gathering close together  
**imminent** – about to occur  
**lame** – crippled  
**milling** – wandering around  
**morose** – gloomy  
**redemption** – rescue from sin  
**sallow** – sickly yellow  
**secluded** – solitary, hidden  
**shirked** – avoided  
**shrill** – high-pitched  
**squabbling** – bickering  
**tabla and harmonium** – traditional musical instruments, drums and an organ  
**taut** – tight  
**tremor** – tremble, shaking  
**unabashedly** – openly, not disguised  
**vindication** – justification, defense

1. Why does Amir not apologize to Hassan for being rude about his dream?

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Hassan tell Amir about the dream?

---

---

---

---

3. How does the blood from the kite string accentuate the kite flying scene?

---

---

---

---

4. What is strange about Amir's vision of himself and his father meeting in the same way as Rostam and Sohrab?

---

---

---

---

5. Why does Amir not give his hand to the fortune-teller?

---

---

---

---

6. What do you think Amir's dream means?

---

---

---

---

7. What is the motivation behind Hassan's rape?

---

---

---

---

8. Why does Amir not help Hassan?

---

---

---

---

9. Amir compares Hassan to the sacrificial lamb. Why is this significant?

---

---

---

---

10. What prejudicial thought enters the narrator's mind as he runs away?

---

---

---

---

11. Why did Amir not want to see devotion in Hassan's eyes after the rape?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

12. What literary term is employed in describing the Hassan's sacrifice as a "lamb," and what other is used in describing Amir's words to Hassan?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Eight

### Vocabulary

**harried** – rushed; worried

**sloughing** – shedding, coming off

1. Why does Baba invite so many people on the trip to Jalalabad?

---

---

---

---

2. How is the relationship between Amir and Hassan emphasized in this chapter?

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Amir invite Hassan to the hill?

---

---

---

---

4. What is significant about the pomegranates growing on the hill?

---

---

---

---

5. Why does Rahim Khan tell Amir about Homaira?

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Nine

### Vocabulary

**loquat** – a small fruit-bearing tree

**sluiced** – poured down

1. Why does Amir call his birthday gifts “blood money”?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why is Rahim Khan’s present not considered blood money by Amir?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Amir ask Baba if he had seen the new watch?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Ten March 1981

### Vocabulary

**elopement** – stealthy leaving  
**embankment** – a mound used to hold back water  
**purse** – pucker

1. How does the confrontation between Baba and the Russian soldier make Amir feel?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Who is Kamal and what happened to him?

---

---

---

---

---

3. What first gives light in the tanker and why does it matter?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What happens to Kamal's father?

---

---

---

---

---



## Chapter Eleven

### Fremont, California, 1980s

#### Vocabulary

**acrid** – bitter

**discern** – make out, see

**pungent** – strong-smelling

**Reganomics** – a derogatory term for former President Ronald Reagan's economic plan of tax cuts, low social services spending, and high military spending

**smoldering** – showing repressed anger

1. Why does Baba not want to take ESL classes?

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Amir say that the last time he sacrificed for Baba he damned himself?

---

---

---

---

3. Why is Amir surprised that Baba says he is going to become a “great” writer?

---

---

---

---

4. Whom does Amir meet, and what does he think of this person?

---

---

---

---

5. What is ironic about Baba's statement, "[W]hat happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole lifetime"?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. What is the literary term that describes the sentence, "America was a river, roaring along, unmindful of the past"?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twelve

### Vocabulary

**brunt** – main burden  
**chastise** – criticize; punish  
**coiffed** – done up, styled  
**crinkling** – wrinkling  
**dappled** – spotted  
**furtive** – sly, glancing  
**hacking** – coughing harshly  
**insinuation** – indirect hint, usually negative  
**metastasized** – spread to other parts of the body  
**oncologist** – a doctor who specializes in treating cancer  
**palliative** – soothing without curing  
**phlegm** – mucus  
**prognosis** – a forecast of how a disease will progress  
**reticence** – hesitance, reserved behavior  
**slouch** – droop, bend  
**smirk** – smug smile  
**tenets** – strongly held beliefs

1. Why is General Taheri's wife described as having "heartbreakingly eager, crooked smile and ...barely veiled hope in her eyes"?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What is the General's reaction to Amir's giving Soraya a short story?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Baba refuse chemotherapy?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. What significant thing does Amir ask of his ill father? What is the result?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Thirteen

### Vocabulary

**alluding** – referring to without saying  
**bouffant** – puffed out  
**chagrin** – shame, embarrassment  
**console** – comfort  
**maverick** – a dissenter, someone who does not follow the majority  
**meticulous** – detailed-oriented, precise  
**petty** – mean about unimportant things  
**posh** – rich, comfortable  
**slurring** – speaking indistinctly

1. Why does Amir want to cry when he gives his notebook to Soraya?

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Amir say that Baba dies “on his own terms”?

---

---

---

---

3. Why does General Taheri not like Soraya’s choice to become a teacher?

---

---

---

---

4. Why does Amir think he and Soraya cannot have children?

---

---

---

---

5. After Amir’s novel is accepted for publication, what does he reminisce about?

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Fourteen

### June 2001

#### Vocabulary

**afterglow** – a comfortable feeling after something pleasurable

**frailty** – physical weakness

**futility** – uselessness, ineffectiveness

**protracted** – overly long

**soliloquies** – speeches mostly to oneself

1. How much time has passed since the last chapter? Why does Hosseini juxtapose the images of a man playing football with his son and a pair of kites flying in the park?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What does Khala Jamila do when the general is in the hospital, and why does she do it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why can Amir not sleep on the plane to Pakistan?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Fifteen

### Vocabulary

**aptness** – truthfulness, appropriateness  
**chuff** – a noisy puffing sound  
**clichés** – statements said so many times that they are overused and meaningless  
**garrulous** – talkative, outgoing  
**gaunt** – extremely thin  
**gnarled** – bent or twisted  
**incessant** – never-ending  
**melancholic** – sad, gloomy  
**negligent** – neglectful  
**nonchalantly** – casually, unconcernedly  
**pragmatic** – practical  
**rickshaws** – two-wheeled passenger carts pulled by a person  
**samovar** – a metal urn used to boil water for tea  
**Taliban** – the extremist group that ruled Afghanistan until the U.S invasion  
**wallow** – to indulge; devote excessive amounts of time to something

1. The previous time Amir and Rahim Khan had spoken on the phone, Baba had just died. The two only spoke for a few minutes before they lost the intercontinental connection. How is this significant?

---

---

---

---

---

2. When Amir tells Rahim Khan about the stories he wrote in the journal that was his birthday present, Rahim Khan says he does not remember it. Why is this mentioned?

---

---

---

---

---

3. What is the situation in Afghanistan as Khan describes it?

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Sixteen

### Vocabulary

**polio** – a viral disease that results in deformity and sometimes paralysis

**presumptuous** – too forward; going beyond what is proper

**proverbial** – the subject of a proverb (a popular saying about a common belief or truth)

**sober** – serious

**temperament** – a person's nature

1. Why does the narration shift from Amir to Rahim Khan in this chapter?

---

---

---

2. Why does Rahim Khan say that stepping on a land mine is a very Afghan way to die?

---

---

---

3. Hassan and his wife make a huge decision. What is it?

---

---

---

4. Who collapses at the front door?

---

---

---

5. After the Taliban “rolled in and put an end to the daily fighting,” what ironic event takes place?

---

---

---



## Chapter Seventeen

### Vocabulary

**conjure** – to make appear as if by magic  
**evicted** – thrown out, expelled  
**pretext** – stated reason to hide the real one  
**tranquil** – calm, peaceful  
**unrequited** – not returned

1. In the letter to Amir, Hassan tells him that the pomegranate tree they used to play near “hasn’t borne fruit in years.” How is this a symbol, and for what?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happened to Hassan and his wife?

---

---

---

---

---

3. What does Rahim Khan want from Amir?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What mystery is brought up in the final pages of this chapter?

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Eighteen

### Vocabulary

**Lollywood** – a nickname for Pakistan’s film industry, taken from “Hollywood” and “Lahore,” the city where Pakistan’s movie production is based  
**smothers** – suffocates  
**swathed** – covered as if with cloth

1. Why did everyone lie to Amir and Hassan about the boys’ upbringing?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why did Rahim Khan summon Amir to Pakistan?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Nineteen

### Vocabulary

adobe – clay  
animosity – hatred  
apprehensively – with worry  
arduous – hard, painful  
arid – extraordinarily dry  
cringed – shrank away  
dilapidated – badly worn and unstable  
emaciated – unhealthily thin  
empathy – pity, understanding  
impregnated – filled, penetrated  
riveting – fascinating  
ruminate – meditate, ponder  
strained – forced, stressed  
surly – unpleasant, rude  
tarnish – dullness

1. Amir calls America a “great, big river” that would let him “forget.” To what does this allude?

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Farid dislike Amir?

---

---

---

---

3. What does Farid mean by “the real Afghanistan”?

---

---

---

---

4. Why does Amir cringe when Wahid calls him a “true Afghan”?

---

---

---

---

5. What does Amir give to Wahid's sons and why is it significant?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. Why does Amir dream that he is Hassan's murderer?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twenty

### Vocabulary

**absurdity** – something that makes no sense  
**carcasses** – dead bodies, usually of animals  
**destitute** – beyond poor, without anything  
**dispenses** – hands out  
**profoundly** – completely, deeply  
**ramshackle** – loosely held together  
**relic** – an ancient object of value  
**spittle** – spit, saliva  
**stupefied** – stunned, overwhelmed  
**Sufism** – a type of Islamic mysticism that involves communication directly with God through meditation  
**unadulterated** – complete, pure

1. Why does Hosseini compare the tanks to dead animals?

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Farid open up to Amir on the journey? What is Kabul like?

---

---

---

---

3. Why does Farid call the Taliban “Beard Patrol”?

---

---

---

---

4. Why does the man at the orphanage not want to admit he knew Sohrab?

---

---

---

---

5. Why does Farid want to kill Zaman?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. Why does Zaman continue to sell children?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twenty-One

### Vocabulary

**doe-eyed** – having large, dark eyes  
**pitch** – a field for sports  
**sanctity** – sacredness, holiness  
**semi-lunar** – in the shape of a half-moon  
**Shari'a** – a set of laws based on the Quran  
**sultry** – sensual, causing desire

1. What does Amir find?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why does Farid's comment about Sohrab being Shi'a make Amir think Afghanistan is a "hopeless place"?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why are the two people killed as the "halftime show" for the soccer match?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twenty-Two

### Vocabulary

**epiphany** – a sudden realization or understanding

**luminous** – shining, bright

**mauve** – bluish purple

**morbidly** – unhealthily

**oblong** – shaped like a flattened circle

**rouge** – makeup used to color cheeks

**tremulous** – trembling, uncertain

1. What is significant about the fact that the house Amir and Farid go to is on the Street of the Guests?

---

---

---

---

2. What is surprising about the identity of the Talib who talks to Amir about taking the boy back?

---

---

---

---

3. What choice does Assef give Amir?

---

---

---

---

4. What is significant about the fact that Sohrab is the one who stops Assef? How is it accomplished?

---

---

---

---



## Chapter Twenty-Three

### Vocabulary

**absolve** – free from guilt  
**paunchy** – having a large belly  
**splenectomy** – removal of the spleen

1. Why does Hosseini change from past tense to present?

---

---

---

---

2. What does Amir's dream of Baba fighting the bear mean?

---

---

---

---

3. List some of the injuries Amir has.

---

---

---

---

4. What is ironic about Amir's relationship with Sohrab?

---

---

---

---

5. Why had Rahim Khan lied to Amir about the Caldwells?

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twenty-Four

### Vocabulary

**affable** – friendly  
**ascertain** – figure out, determine  
**asylum** – political security or safety  
**discretion** – freedom to make choices without outside influence  
**humanitarian visa** – a document that allows someone to live in a foreign country to avoid harm  
**milieu** – surroundings  
**nimbus** – a halo  
**persecution** – oppression  
**prick** – slang for a jerk  
**raving** – talking or behaving irrationally  
**slackened** – loosened, eased  
**turmoil** – conflict  
**Woodstock** – a rock music festival held in 1969

1. What happens to Sohrab while Amir sleeps?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Amir laugh when Mr. Fayyaz tells him that Afghanis are reckless?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean when Amir says, “There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood,” and how does it relate to Sohrab?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why would Baba have been ashamed of himself regarding Hassan and Amir?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Explain the significance of the television show that is on when Amir and Sohrab return from their picnic.

---

---

---

---

6. What is significant about the decision Amir makes to be completely truthful with Soraya?

---

---

---

---

7. Why does Amir ask Soraya to not tell her parents of Sohrab's origins?

---

---

---

---

8. Why does Amir ask Mr. Andrews if he has children; what is the outcome of the question?

---

---

---

---

9. Why does Sohrab not ask about the meeting between Amir and Andrews?

---

---

---

---

10. What obstacles arise about Amir's trying to bring Sohrab to the United States?

---

---

---

---

11. What does the sour apples story say about Sohrab?

---

---

---

---

12. What happens at the end of the chapter?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chapter Twenty-Five

### Vocabulary

**catharsis** – a purifying release of emotions  
**curdled** – solid, thickened  
**eccentric** – unusual, strange  
**erroneous** – false  
**hustle** – energetic activity  
**impunity** – free from punishment or consequence  
**minarets** – tall slender towers attached to mosques  
**queries** – questions  
**replete** – full  
**serpentine** – winding, twisty  
**teeming** – crowded, full  
**trellis** – a framework of crossed slats used to support growing plants

1. What is significant about Amir praying in the hospital?

---

---

---

---

2. What is the significance of the various characters sleeping so much?

---

---

---

---

3. What does Amir make sure the General understands?

---

---

---

---

4. What kind of child is Sohrab? What incident offers some hope?

---

---

---

---

# The Perfect Balance Between Cost and Quality for Classic Paperbacks

WITH ALL OF THE DIFFERENT EDITIONS of classics available, what makes *Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics™* better?

Our editions were designed by former teachers with the needs of teachers and students in mind. Because we've struggled to stretch tight budgets and had to deal with the deficiencies of cheaply made paperbacks, we've produced high-quality trade editions at remarkably low prices. As a result, our editions have it all.

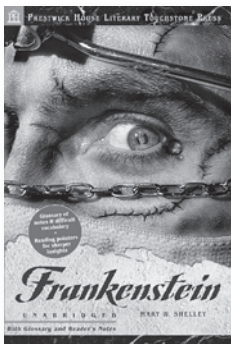
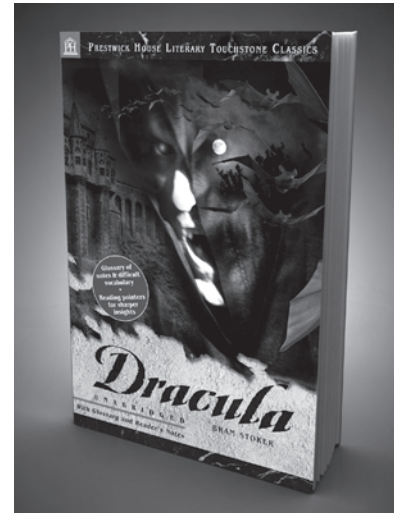
**Value Pricing** – With our extraordinary Educators' Discount, you get these books at **50% or more off the list price.**

**Reading Pointers for Sharper Insights** – Concise notes that encourage students to question and consider points of plot, theme, characterization, and style, etc.

**Glossary and Vocabulary** – An A-to-Z glossary makes sure that your students won't get lost in difficult allusions or archaic vocabulary and concepts.

**Sturdy Bindings and High-Quality Paper** – High-quality construction ensures these editions hold up to heavy, repeated use.

**Strategies for Understanding Shakespeare** – Each *Shakespeare Literary Touchstone Classic™* contains line numbers, margin notes, and a guide to understanding Shakespeare's language, as well as key strategies for getting the most from the plays.



## Special Introductory Discount for Educators only – At Least 50% Off!

New titles are constantly being added; call or visit our website for current listing.

	Retail Price	Intro.	Discount
200053..... <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> - Twain TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99		\$2.49
200473..... <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The</i> - Twain TU RJ AT	\$4.99		\$2.49
202116..... <i>Alice's Adventure in Wonderland</i> - Carroll TU RJ	\$3.99		\$1.99
202118..... <i>Antigone</i> - Sophocles TU RJ AT	\$3.99		\$1.99
200141..... <i>Awakening, The</i> - Chopin TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99		\$1.99
202111..... <i>Beowulf</i> - Roberts (ed.) TU	\$3.99		\$1.99
204866..... <i>Best of Poe, The: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others</i> - Poe	\$4.99		\$2.49
200150..... <i>Call of the Wild, The</i> - London TU RJ AT	\$3.99		\$1.99
200348..... <i>Canterbury Tales</i> - Chaucer TU	\$3.99		\$1.99
200179..... <i>Christmas Carol, A</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT	\$3.99		\$1.99
201198..... <i>Crime and Punishment</i> - Dostoyevsky TU	\$6.99		\$3.49
200694..... <i>Doll's House, A</i> - Ibsen TU RJ AT	\$3.99		\$1.99
200190..... <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> - Stevenson TU RJ AT	\$3.99		\$1.99

202113..... <i>Dracula</i> - Stoker TU RJ	\$5.99	\$2.99
200166..... <i>Ethan Frome</i> - Wharton TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200054..... <i>Frankenstein</i> - Shelley TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99	\$1.99
202112..... <i>Great Expectations</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
202108..... <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> - Swift TU	\$4.99	\$2.49
200091..... <i>Hamlet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
200074..... <i>Heart of Darkness</i> - Conrad TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202117..... <i>Hound of the Baskervilles, The</i> - Doyle TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200147..... <i>Importance of Being Earnest, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301414..... <i>Invisible Man, The</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202115..... <i>Jane Eyre</i> - Brontë TU RJ	\$6.99	\$3.49
200146..... <i>Julius Caesar</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
201817..... <i>Jungle, The</i> - Sinclair TU RJ AT	\$5.99	\$2.99
200125..... <i>Macbeth</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
204864..... <i>Medea</i> - Euripides TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200133..... <i>Metamorphosis, The</i> - Kafka TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200081..... <i>Midsummer Night's Dream, A</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202123..... <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301391..... <i>My Antonia</i> - Cather TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200079..... <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> - Douglass TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301269..... <i>Odyssey, The</i> - Butler (trans.) TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
200564..... <i>Oedipus Rex</i> - Sophocles TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200095..... <i>Othello</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
202121..... <i>Picture of Dorian Gray, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
200368..... <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> - Austen TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
202114..... <i>Prince, The</i> - Machavelli TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200791..... <i>Pygmalion</i> - Shaw TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200102..... <i>Red Badge of Courage, The</i> - Crane TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200193..... <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$0.99
200132..... <i>Scarlet Letter, The</i> - Hawthorne TU AT AP	\$4.99	\$2.49
202119..... <i>Siddhartha</i> - Hesse TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204863..... <i>Silas Marner</i> - Eliot TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200251..... <i>Tale of Two Cities, A</i> - Dickens AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
200231..... <i>Taming of the Shrew, The</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204865..... <i>Time Machine, The</i> - Wells TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202120..... <i>Treasure Island</i> - Stevenson TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
301420..... <i>War of the Worlds</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202122..... <i>Wuthering Heights</i> - Brontë TU AT	\$5.99	\$2.99

TU Teaching Units RJ Response Journals AP Activity Pack AT AP Teaching Units



PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.

"Everything for the English Classroom!"

P.O. Box 658 • Clayton, DE 19938 • (800) 932-4593 • (888) 718-9333 • [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)



P R E S T W I C K   H O U S E ,   I N C .

## Order Form

Call 1-800-932-4593 Fax 1-888-718-9333

Prestwick House, Inc.  
P.O. Box 658  
Clayton, DE 19938

Bill To: ☐ Home ☐ School

School:
Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:                      Email:

Ship To: ☐ Home ☐ School

School:
Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:                      Email:

ITEM NO	TITLE	QUANTITY	X	PRICE	=	TOTAL

### Method of Payment (Choose one)

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card ☐ American Express

☐ Purchase Order Enclosed

We accept purchase orders and authorized orders charged to institutions. Personal orders not on a credit card must be accompanied by a check.

Signature

Telephone #

Exp. Date

Credit Card #

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Because charges for air delivery are based on weight and distance, heavy packages can be expensive to ship air freight. Typographic and photographic errors are subject to revision. Prestwick House is the sole source of all proprietary materials listed in this catalogue. Please be sure to include a street address. FedEx ground/UPS will not deliver to a P.O. Box.

Subtotal \$

Shipping \$  
12% S&H (\$6.00 minimum)

Total \$

### Shipping & Handling

For orders of \$50.00 or less, please add \$6.00 for shipping and handling charges. For orders from \$50.01 to \$799.99 add 12%. For orders of \$800.00 and more, add 10%.

### Delivery Service

Most orders are shipped FedEx and you can expect delivery within 7-10 working days. Items in stock are usually shipped within one working day of receiving your order.

### Expedited Delivery

for expedited delivery ask about the following options:

- Overnight Air
- 2nd day air
- 3 Day Select