Kite Runner 1-5 Discussion

*Chapter 1*

1. How does the use of chapter 1 to introduce the flashback establish the overall mood of the novel? How would it be different if the story were told without flashback?

2. What does the reader know about the narrator’s present life, and how do we know?

3. What mood does the image of the two kites create? How does Hosseini create this mood?

4. How does the first chapter set up the narrative and its major themes?

*Chapter 2*

1. What are the reader’s first impressions of Hassan based on Hosseini’s description of him?

2. Why have Amir’s teachers note said very much about the Hazaras?

3. What is so unusual about the relationship Amir and Hassan? How does history (page 9) inform our understanding of the foundation of their relationship?

4. What is Amir’s relationship with Baba like?

5. What can we infer from the foreshadowing on the last line of the first full paragraph on page five?

*Chapter 3*

1. How does Hosseini use hyperbole in his descriptions of Baba? What can the reader conclude about Baba based on these descriptions?

2. Why does Amir lie about Hassan’s health when Baba wants to take them to Ghangha Lake? What is the significance of this lie in terms of developing the reader’s understanding of Amir?

3. What does Baba mean when he says that Amir has “confused what you’re learning in school with actual education”? What are the implications of this statement?

4. Discuss Baba’s idea of stealing as the only sin. Do you agree or disagree?

5. Can you spot foreshadowing in Baba’s comments about Amir on the last two pages of this chapter?

*Chapter 4*

1. What does the pomegranate tree symbolize to Amir and Hassan? How does Hosseini create this symbol?

2. What is ironic about Hassan’s ability to solve riddles? What is the implication of this irony?

3. How and why does Hosseini create in Amir a complicated protagonist, someone with whom the reader can both sympathize with and despise?

4. Why does the time slow down for Amir when he shows his story to Baba? How does Hosseini create this effect?

*Chapter 5*

1. How does Hosseini’s description of Assef let the reader know immediately that he is the antagonist?

2. What does Assef foreshadow when he talks about his admiration for Hitler?

3. How does Hassan’s harelip foster Amir’s jealousy of him? Explain this irony.

4. What is suggested by the affection that Baba shows to Hassan?