Kite Runner 12-13 Discussion

*Chapter 12*

1. How does Hosseini’s use of details of exposition to link Amir’s life in Afghanistan with his life in the United States? What is the importance of dong so?

2. Hosseini contrasts Afghanistan and the United States again with a discussion of gender politics. What is the significance of this discussion in understanding Amir?

3. What is the significance of Soraya’s story about teaching Ziba to read?

4. The last time Hosseini described rain was when Ali and Hassan left Baba’s house. What is the significance of the rain in this chapter?

5. What is the effect of Soraya telling her story? How does the reader view both Soraya and Amir differently in light of her story?

*Chapter 13*

1. Explain the irony of the wedding song that Amir recognizes from his past.

2. How does Amir’s past come back to him during his wedding? What is the significance of these fleeting thoughts for Amir and for the primary conflict of the novel?

3. Did Baba redeem himself for being a poor parent? Has Soraya redeemed herself for running away with the drugged-out guy? What about Amir?

4. What is the significance of Amir’s catching Soraya reading his stories to Baba? Compare this scene to the scene in chapter 4 when Baba is unwilling to read the stories.

5. How does Hosseini use word choice to create peace for the reader when describing Baba’s death?

6. Like Amir, the reader learns little about the general until after Amir and Soraya are married. Compare the general and Baba. What is the significance of some of the surprising differences?

7. When Amir finds success as an author, and again when he and Soraya are unable to have children. Amir’s mind wanders back to his past. What is the significance of Amir thinking back to Hassan and Rahim Khan?

8. Chapter 13 contains three important events in Amir’s life: his wedding, Baba’s death, and the discovery of Soraya’s infertility. Why would Hosseini choose to include these three events in a single chapter? What is the significance of placing so many domestic plot events together at this point in the plot?

9. Contrast the General with Baba (176-177) regarding how they adapted to live in America.

10. Discuss examples of classism, racism, sexism, and…jobism (just let it happen) from Afghanis.