Kite Runner 14-19 Discussion

*Chapter 14*

1. Structurally, what is the significance of this chapter? What is different as a result of this structural change? What is the same?

2. What is the significance of Rahim Khan’s call to Amir? How is this event a turning point in the plot?

3. What is the significance of Amir’s dreaming of Hassan running through the snow to catch the last kite?

*Chapter 15*

1. How does the tone of the writing change now that Amir is in Pakistan? Comment specifically on how Hosseini creates this change by looking at this sentence structure.

2. What is the significance of Rahim Khan’s story about the soccer game?

3. What is the impact of the figurative language in the last line before the page break on 197?

4. Discuss the Taliban’s form of government (199-201).

5. Describe the irony of these two events: the Afghanis celebrating the arrival of the Taliban; the Taliban destroying Baba’s orphanage.

6. This chapter concludes with a return to thoughts of Hassan. How does Amir feel about this conversation? What does he fear?

*Chapter 16*

1. What is the purpose of interrupting the plot in insert this narrative? What effect does this narrative have?

2. What’s unique about the writing style of this chapter?

3. Has Hassan changed since leaving Baba’s house as a child? What is different? What is the same? What is significant about Hosseini’s description of Hassan?

4. What is the significance of Hassan’s running away from his long-lost mother? Is he the kind of person who is in the habit of running from difficult situations?

5. What is the significance of Hassan’s naming his son Sohrab? Look back to the references to this name in Hassan’s youth.

6. Where do we see the idea of redemption crop up in this chapter, specifically on page 211?

7. How does Hosseini create suspense at the end of this chapter?

*Chapter 17*

1. What does the murder of Hassan do to the plot development of the primary conflict between Amir and his own guilt?

2. How does Hosseini make Hassan’s murder all too real, making it more painful for the reader? Comment on specific narrative techniques.

3. What does the revelation of Hassan’s parentage do to the conflict between Amir and his guilt?

4. Why might the reader have suspected this before Amir? Discuss some of the clues that reveal Hassan’s true father long before Rahim Khan tells Amir.

5. Why have Baba, Ali, and Rahim Khan lied to Hassan and Amir all these years? Is this consistent with their personalities? What makes this lie so important?

*Chapter 18*

1. How does Amir’s new understanding of Hassan change his image of Baba? How significant is the impact of this revelation on Amir?

2. After a lifetime of feeling that he did not resemble his father, what similarities does Amir discover as he reflects on Rahim Khan’s news? What is significant about these similarities?

3. Why does Amir decide to go to Kabul? Is this consistent with his actions throughout the novel? How does this decision develop him as a protagonist?

*Chapter 19*

1. Why is Farid so cold and rude to Amir? How does Hosseini show the reader the source of Farid’s anger through his subtle word choice?

2. What new qualities does the reader see in Amir as he decides to leave for Kabul earlier than Rahim Khan recommends? How is he changing?

3. What does Farid mean when he says to Amir, “You’ve always been a tourist here, you just didn’t know it”? In what ways is this statement true? In what ways is it false?

4. How is Amir’s profession a source of embarrassment for him in Wahid’s home? How is his profession perceived differently in Afghanistan than it is in the United States? How did the reader see this same conflict played out in Baba before he died?

5. What is the significance of Amir’s dream?

6. Amir leaves money under a mattress for Wahid’s family, something he had done for Hassan years ago. How is it different this time? What changes do we see in Amir based on this action?

7. In what ways is Amir’s journey to Kabul a quest?