Kite Runner 20-23 Discussion

*Chapter 20*

1. What is the importance of the lengthy description of changes that Amir finds on his way to Kabul and in the city itself?

2. Explain the significance of Amir’s meeting the old beggar who happened to know his mother. How does this meeting affect Amir?

3. Why is the man at the orphanage so suspicious of Amir and Farid? What does his suspicion suggest about the life that he is leading in Kabul?

4. What is the effect of the irony in Zaman’s description of the children in the orphanage and his financial situation?

5. How does Amir’s experience at the orphanage create a tone of fear and suspense?

6. And the million-dollar question: what would you do if you were Zaman?

*Chapter 21*

1. Why does Hosseini include the brief flashback to Amir’s childhood just as he and Farid are arriving at Baba’s house? What is the significance of the memory about the turtle in relation to the reality of the “fallen splendor” of Baba’s house?

2. What does Amir mean when he tells Farid that he does not “want to forget anymore” as he leaves to climb the hill he and Hassan had climbed as children? What are the implications of this statement for Amir?

3. Why does Hosseini include the scene in which Farid and Amir tell Mullah Nasruddin jokes just before they go to sleep? What is important about these jokes?

4. Why does Amir avoid answering Farid’s questions about why he has come back to Kabul for this particular boy?

5. Explain the irony of Amir’s description of the Talib looking “like a baseball pitcher on the mound.” What is the significance of this event for Amir?

*Chapter 22*

1. How does Hosseini structure the narrative to maximize the shock when Amir and the reader finally discover the identity of the Talib?

2. Why do you think Assef fought in the wars and eventually joined the Taliban (282)?

3. What is happening at the bottom of 287?

4. Assef laughs when the prison guard beats him because it relieves Assef’s pain from the kidney stone. Why does Amir laugh when he is beaten? Does this make them similar in any significant way?