Kite Runner 9-11 Discussion

*Chapter 9*

1. What does Amir mean when he says that all of his gifts are “blood money”?

2. What does Amir mean when he says that he “was the monster in the lake”? Where have we seen this phrase before? What is the significance of Amir’s use of this phrase in terms of understanding his character and how he feels about himself?

3. Why do Ali and Hassan leave Baba’s house even though Baba forgives Hassan and begs Ali to stay? What does this scene tell the reader about Hassan?

4. Why is it important that it rains the day that Ali and Hassan leave Baba’s house?

5. What symbolism can you find in the fact that Hassan left behind all his toys in the shack (page 108)?

*Chapter 10*

1. How does Hosseini’s highlight Amir’s cowardice in this scene with the Russian soldier?

2. How do Hosseini’s word choice and sentence structure convey Amir’s fear as he climbs into the fuel tank?

3. Explain the tragic irony of Kamal’s death. What qualities do Amir and Kamal have in common?

4. Why does the narrative skip forward at the beginning of this chapter?

5. What evidence do we have of this world’s brokenness?

6. Kamal was raped by a Russian. What symbolic meaning does this have?

7. In what ways is the reality of the Middle East finally catching up with Amir?

*Chapter 11*

1. How does the metaphor comparing Reaganomics to a pillow contribute to Amir’s idea? Discuss Reaganomics.

2. How does the tone of the novel change at the beginning of this chapter now that Baba and Amir live in the United States? How does Hosseini create this change?

3. What does Amir mean when he says that Kabul has become a city of ghosts for him? How does he think living in America is going to be an improvement for him?

4. Compare and contrast Baba’s business life in Afghanistan with his business life in the US. How has Baba changed? What qualities remain?

5. Explain how Baba’s line, “what happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole life” can apply to Soraya, Amir, Hassan, Rahim Khan, Kamal, Baba, etc.

6. Explain the Afghani model of payment and credit (128). How would it work in the US now?

7. What is the American Dream for Baba? For Amir? (129). Compare with the ideas of the American Dream in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

8. How can you tell Amir’s relationship with Baba has evolved? Why has it?

9. What are food stamps? Explain Baba’s views on them (130-131).

10. What statements about wealth do we see on page 135?

11. Explain the metaphor before the break on 136. What does this metaphor convey to us?