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The Kite Runner
BY KHALED HOSSEINI


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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Making Predictions**

Objective: Using contextual evidence to shape and support a claim

Activity

In Chapter One, Khaled Hosseini introduces the reader almost immediately to what will become a motif and symbol in his novel: kites. He writes, “Then I glanced up and saw a pair of kites, red with long blue tails, soaring in the sky. They danced above the trees on the west end of the park, over the windmills, floating side by side like a pair of eyes looking down on San Francisco, the city I now call home. And suddenly Hassan’s voice whispered in my head: *For you, a thousand times over.* Hassan the hare-lipped kite runner.”

Title a page “Predictions” and re-read this brief chapter carefully. In a short paragraph, predict the idea(s) Hosseini might equate with kites as the novel progresses, as well as what significance you feel they may play in the novel overall.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 5**Diary Entry**

Objective: Understanding historical references
Writing a diary entry

Activity

In Chapter Five, Hassan and Amir are startled by the sound of explosions, gunfire, and sirens that begin the 1973 “bloodless coup” of Afghanistan. Imagine that you are a reporter in the midst of this situation, covering it for a story. Write a diary entry on the coup and the end of the Afghan monarchy from the perspective of someone who might have been there in 1973; the knowledge of, obviously, would have no the present time. How might this person have felt during this uncertain time? What might he have predicted happening in the future?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 7

Dialogue

Objective: Demonstrating familiarity with characters' voices through writing dialogue

Activity

We often learn as much about characters from their conversations as we do from their actions. This activity will enable you to demonstrate your knowledge of *The Kite Runner's* characters and to exercise your imagination.

Choose any of these prompts and for each, write at least a page of dialogue that might have occurred in the situation mentioned. Feel free to let the dialogue carry you beyond what you already know of the characters, but strive to represent them accurately.

1. Write a conversation between Baba and Rahim Khan as they watch the kite-fighting tournament.
2. Imagine that either Amir or Hassan speak of the rape. Write the conversation that might happen between them.
3. Imagine that Amir confronts Assef before he attacks Hassan. Write the conversation between the characters.
4. Write a conversation between Amir and Baba about Amir's victory.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 2 – 10**Questionnaire**

Objective: Preparing for a close reading of the text
Identifying with a character

Activity

Hosseini deals with a variety of difficult and controversial topics in *The Kite Runner*, including racism, bullying, war and politics, gender inequity, and rape. To better understand and appreciate the novel, consider the following questions. Write a short answer for each, containing at least two to three sentences.

1. Towards the beginning of the novel, Hassan's identity as a Hazara establishes him as a victim of severe and violent racial prejudice. Do you see similar types of racial prejudices evident in the United States? Explain.
2. Hassan's harelip and overall physical appearance leaves him open to many challenges. Make people feel they don't measure up to a standard of beauty. What advice would you give to someone who is unhappy with the way he or she looks?
3. Hassan's appearance and racial identity make him the target of bullying. Have you ever been bullied at school? If so, describe the experience and how it made you feel. If not, how would you imagine a bullied person might feel?
4. In Chapter Seven Amir witnesses Hassan being brutally raped, but rather than help him, he runs away. What drives his decision? Can you understand his choice? Have you ever made a decision not to help someone who was in trouble, or in danger, because of what it could mean for your own safety or welfare?
5. In Chapter Ten, Baba and Amir are forced to become refugees from Russian-occupied Kabul and endure a hazardous, miserable journey to Pakistan. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine yourself in a similar situation. What things would you take with you from your home? How do you think you would you handle the journey?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1 – 12

Vocabulary

Objective: Defining vocabulary words through context

Activity

Directions: Look up the following vocabulary words taken from these chapters indicated. In your own words, provide a definition for each word based on context clues from the sentences it is found in and other sentences around it. Context clues refer to parts of a written passage surrounding a word or phrase that help you to determine that word or phrase's meaning. After writing your own contextual definition, look up the word in the dictionary and see how close your definition is to the actual meaning. Write a revised definition, if necessary, in the appropriate space.

An example has been done for you:

VOCABULARY CHART

Chapter	Word	Contextual Definition	Revised Definition
2	garrulous		
3	veracity		
	havoc		
	mullah		
	furtive		
4	impeccable		
	mewling		
	imbecile		
	amends		
	feigned		
5	coup		
	sociopath		
	grandiose		
	trepidation		
	coily		
6	spars		
	specter		
	coveted		
	abhor		
	integrity		
	viable		

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 20

Editorializing

Objective: Editorializing on political events in a novel

Activity

In Chapter Twenty, although he tries to prepare himself for the worst, Amir is shocked and saddened by the state of Kabul when he returns. It is littered with rubble, beggars, the patrolling Taliban, and a sense of despair. Read through Chapter Twenty and make a list, below, of all of the things that are different from how Amir remembers them. Then, select one thing that is particularly important to you and sketch an editorial cartoon. Editorial cartoons should have some basis in truth, even if they are presenting a biased opinion, and should have some moral purpose—in other words, they should inform the viewer about and encourage reflection on a specific issue.

List of Differences:

Editorial Cartoon