

The Kite Runner Socratic Seminar Ticket

1. One underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan's true friend? Why does Amir resent Hassan and constantly test Hassan's loyalty? To what degree do you accept the novel's opening lines, "I became what I am today at the age of twelve." To what moment(s) is Amir referring? Is his assertion entirely true? What other factors have helped form his character? How would you describe Amir?
2. Baba and Amir know that they are very different people. Often it disappoints both of them that Amir is not the son that Baba has hoped for. Finding a way to please his father seems to be Amir's dearest wish. What fuels this wish? To what extent does he succeed in doing so and at what cost? What kind of man is Baba? How would you describe his relationship with Amir and with Hassan? How does that relationship change, and what prompts those changes? When Amir finds out that Baba has lied to him about Hassan, he realizes that "as it turned out, Baba and I were more alike than I'd ever known." (226) In what ways does Amir infer that he and Bab are alike? How does this make Amir feel about his father? How is this both a negative and positive realization?
3. Amir's confrontation with Assef in Wazir Akar Khan marks an important turning point in the novel. Why does the author have Amir, Assef, and Sohrab all come together in this way? What is the significance of the scar that Amir develops as a result of the confrontation? Why is it important in Amir's journey toward forgiveness and acceptance? Who or what is being forgiven or accepted by whom? In what ways is Amir's relationship with Sohrab simply a repeat of Amir's relationship with Hassan? In what ways is it different? What marks the difference? What does it signify?
4. What is the significance of the novel's title? What might the kite fighting tournament symbolize? Does the competition's combination of physical brutality and aesthetic beauty parallel any other aspects of the book? On the drive to Kabul Farid says to Amir "You've always been a tourist here, you just didn't know it." (204) What is Farid implying? What do you think of his implication? What gives a person worth in a society? Does this vary between societies?