

Name _____
Score _____

THE KITE RUNNER

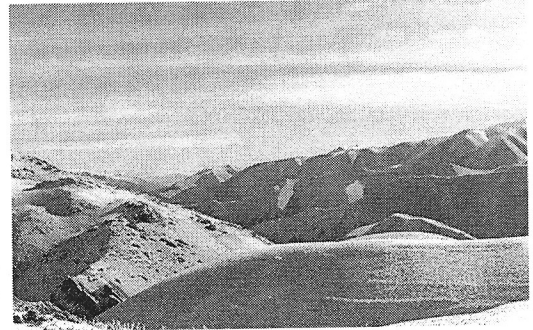
CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO ACTIVITY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Directions: Read Chapters One and Two and answer the questions below.

KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the date of Chapter One?
2. How old is the narrator in Chapter One?
3. Where is the narrator currently living?
4. Who is the first person that Amir mentions in Chapter Two?
5. Baba and his friends frequently talked about which three subjects?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



APPLICATION

6. What does Amir think about after Rahim Khan's phone call?
7. What does Amir's statement reveal about his relationship with Hassan: "Hassan never wanted to but if I asked *really* asked he wouldn't deny me. Hassan never denied me anything"?
8. What does the stress on the word *always* suggest about Amir's relationship with his father: "He'd close the door, leave me to wonder why it was *always* grown-ups' time with him"?
9. On page 5 Amir describes his home, and specifically, the pictures. Describe each photograph:
Photograph 1: _____
Photograph 2: _____
Photograph 3: _____
10. What was Hassan's first word? _____ What was Amir's first word? _____

ANALYSIS/SYNTHESIS

SYMBOLISM AND DICTION

11. According to the scholar Joseph Campbell winter symbolizes "cold, despair, loneliness, emptiness." For the hero this season symbolizes his or her literal or symbolic death. This is a time of introversion and contemplation. List all the key adjectives from the first paragraph of Chapter One:

"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek. That was a long time ago, but it's wrong what they say about the past, I've learned, about how you can bury it. Because the past claws its way out. Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years."

What does the symbolism of winter and Amir's diction suggest about the event that the narrator is recalling from his past?

Symbolism (Greek, 'to throw together') - symbols-like metaphors, similes, personification, and allusions-are a type of figurative language. Symbols must be something material or visible such as colors, objects, animals, people, and places, while the idea it symbolizes must be something abstract or universal.

SYMBOLISM AND OBJECTS

12. Mirrors symbolize "imagination, consciousness, self-contemplation, reflection of the universe, mythic door-soul frees itself by 'passing' to the other side." A distorted image or mirror used in a destructive way symbolizes "self-deception." Read the passage and examine how the mirror is used in this passage:

When we were children, Hassan and I used to climb the popular trees in the driveway of my father's house and annoy our neighbors by reflecting sunlight into their homes with a shard of mirror. We would sit across from each other on a pair of high branches, our naked feet dangling, our trouser pockets filled with dried mulberries and walnuts. We took turns with the mirror as we ate mulberries, pelted each other with them, giggling, laughing... Sometimes up in those trees, I talked Hassan into firing walnuts with his slingshot at the neighbor's one-eyed German Shephard. Hassan never wanted to, but if I asked, really asked, he wouldn't deny me. Hassan never denied me anything... He [Ali] would take the mirror and tell us what his mother had told him, that the devil shone mirrors too, shone them to distract Muslims during prayer."

Based on the symbolism of the mirror and the context it is used, what is being inferred about Amir and Hassan's relationship?

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Diction is the author's choice and use of words.

Personification is when an inanimate object is given the characteristics as being a living person or animal.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM/SUBJECT CONNECTION (Suggestion for further study)

History Describe other events in history when the minority group/s are believed to be left out of textbooks

Provide ONE example: _____