

## **Khaled Hosseini – *The Kite Runner***

- Born 1965 in Kabul, Afghanistan
- 1970 moved to Iran where his father worked for the Embassy of Afghanistan and returned back to Kabul in 1973
- 1976 moved to Paris for his father's job but couldn't return back to Afghanistan because of the Soviet invasion
- 1980 they found political asylum in the US and moved to San Jose, California when he was 15.
- Hosseini finished high school and then went on to college at Santa Clara University and earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. Then he went on to University of California's school of medicine and earned his M.D. in 1993.
- 1996 he completed his residency at Cedars- Sinai Medical Center in L.A. and then practiced medicine for over 10 years until 2004.
- He began to write *The Kite Runner* in March 2001 and it was published in 2003
  - *TKR* is an international best seller being published in 70 countries
  - *TKR* has spent 101 weeks on the *New York Times Best Seller* list and #1 for 4 of those weeks
  - The novel was adapted into a film and released in 2007
- 2007 he released *A Thousand Splendid Suns* another *New York Times Best Seller*
- Now he works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and created the *Khaled Hosseini Foundation* that provides humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan

Hosseini's "very fond memories of [his] childhood" in peaceful pre-Soviet era Afghanistan, as well as his personal experiences with Afghanistan's Hazara people led to the writing of his first novel, *The Kite Runner*. One Hazara man, named Hossein Khan, worked for the Hosseinis when they were living in Iran. When Khaled Hosseini was in third grade, he taught Khan to read and write. Although his relationship with Hossein Khan was brief and rather formal, Hosseini's fond memories of this relationship served as an inspiration for the relationship between Hassan and Amir in *The Kite Runner*.

*Sunni* → *Pashtun* → *Upper*     *Shi'ite* → *Hazara* → *Middle/Lower*