

## ***The Kite Runner – study guide chapters 9-13***

### **Chapter 9**

1. What does Amir put under Hassan's mattress? Why does he do it? What is your reaction to Amir's betrayal?
2. When Baba confronts Hassan about this, what does Hassan say?
3. What does Baba do that shocks Amir?
4. What happens to Hassan and Ali?
5. How is the end of chapter 9 a turning point in the novel?

### **Chapter 10**

6. What "weakness" of Amir's does Baba have to apologize for in Chapter 10?
7. Who is Karim?
8. Why are Amir and his father fleeing Afghanistan?
9. Why does Baba challenge the Russian officer who is obviously high on drugs?
10. In chapter 10, several things happen that are ironic or foreshadowing. Label each one and explain:
  - The only way Amir can survive the long ride in the fume-filled tank is by remembering flying kites with Hassan.
  - Baba gathers up the dirt of his homeland and places it next to his heart. O
  - Kamal's father commits suicide after Kamal dies from breathing fumes of the tank.
  - Kamal, one of Hassan's rapists, has been raped himself and hasn't spoken since.

### **Chapter 11**

10. Chapter 11 has a new setting. What is it?
11. "America was different. America was a river roaring along, unmindful of the past. I could wade into this river, let my sins drown to the bottom, let the waters carry me someplace far." This quote from chapter 11 is said by whom? What does it reveal? What does this metaphor mean?
12. What does Baba give Amir as a graduation present? What is Amir feeling at this moment? What is Baba feeling?
13. In chapter 11, who is Soraya?
14. What does Amir tell his father he wants to study in college? What is Baba's reaction? Baba observes that "It may be unfair, but what happens in a single day can change the course of a whole lifetime." About whom is he speaking? Why? What else might be significant about that quote?

### **Chapter 12**

15. What does Amir observe about a double standard in chapter 12?
16. Why did the visit with the pulmonologist become unsuccessful when Baba asked him where he was from?
17. What is Baba diagnosed with? How does he decide to treat it? Why does Amir ask Baba to meet with General Taheri?

### **Chapter 13**

18. In chapter 13 Amir thinks about the "bears" his father has wrestled during his lifetime. What "bears" has Baba wrestled with?
19. What good news does Amir learn in chapter 13?
20. What disappointment do Soraya and Amir face? Do you think that Amir should have told Soraya about his betrayal of Hassan before they were married? Why or why not? What does this do to a relationship?
21. In 1989, what is going on in Afghanistan? Who are the Mujahidin? Who is in charge?