

The Kite Runner, Chapters 14-21

Chapter 14

1. Why is Amir so quiet as he hangs up the phone?
2. What does Aflatoon's name mean in Farsi?
3. What is different about Soraya's appearance?
4. What does Amir notice as he sits at Golden Gate Park?
5. What does Amir now realize that Rahim Khan knows about his past?
6. What did Rahim Khan tell Amir just before hanging up?
7. What injury has the General suffered?
8. What did Khala Jamila do while the General was in the hospital that reminded Amir of Afghanistan? Sing (193)
9. How has Soraya's relationship with her father changed?
10. What was Amir's savior?
11. As he drifts off to sleep, what image comes to Amir's mind?
12. Why is Amir having trouble sleeping?

Chapter 15

1. What does Gholam tell Amir about Pakistani and Afghani people?
2. What is the tone of Amir's description of present day Peshawar?
3. Gholam tells Amir that most Afghani's in Peshawar live in what condition?
4. How did Baba react the last time he saw Rahim Khan in person?
5. What did a creative writing teacher at San Jose State once tell Amir?
6. Why is Rahim Khan's physical condition like an "elephant in the room?"
7. Rahim Khan says the Taliban don't allow people to be what?
8. Why was Rahim Khan beaten at a soccer game?
9. Why did people in Kabul knock holes in their walls?
10. What has happened to the orphanage Baba built?
11. How does Rahim Khan respond when Amir asks him how he is?
12. What is *ghamkhori*?
13. What is *Zendagi migzara*?
14. Who was living in Baba's house with Rahim Khan?

Chapter 16

1. Who begins the narration in this chapter?
2. What is the main reason Rahim Khan looks for Hassan in 1986?
3. How does Rahim Khan feel about living in Baba's house?
4. How does Hassan react when Rahim Khan visits?
5. How has Ali died?
6. Who is Farzana?
7. How did Baba react when Ali got polio?
8. How does Hassan react when Rahim Khan tells him of Baba?
9. What is *zendagi*?
10. What is *ihitram*?
11. Where does Hassan move when he returns with Rahim Khan?
12. Why does Hassan wear black for forty days?
13. What happened to a whole section of the "Wall of Ailing Corn?"
14. What happens to Farzana's first child?
15. Who returns in 1990?
16. Hassan never asks Sanaubar what?
17. What does Hassan name his son?
18. What does Hassan's son call Sanaubar?
19. Sanaubar is buried in a cemetery by what landmark?
20. Rahim Khan says what always hurts the most?
21. Hassan takes Sohrab to the zoo to see what?
22. Rahim Khan says that Sohrab reminds him of whom?
23. What does Hassan say when he learns the Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan?
24. A few weeks after taking power, the Taliban ban what?

Chapter 17

1. What is in the envelope Rahim Khan gives Amir?
2. What has Hassan learned to do while Amir was in America?
3. Why was Farzana beaten in the market and what does this say about the place of women in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan?
4. In one of his letters, Hassan says he hopes his son does not grow up to be what like his father?
5. What does Hassan mention about the pomegranate tree? What dreams has Hassan been having?
6. What excuse do the Taliban give for moving into Baba's house?
7. How do the Taliban justify killing Hassan and Farzana?
8. What favor does Rahim Khan ask of Amir?
9. How does Rahim Khan respond when Amir says that he can pay someone to go get Sohrab?
10. Baba used to tell Rahim Khan that "a boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who" cannot do what?
11. Rahim Khan tells Amir that he has been far too what?
12. How many children did Ali have with his first wife?
13. How many children did Ali's first wife have with her second husband?
14. Why did Rahim Khan not tell Amir who Hassan's true father was?
15. Why does Amir feel his whole life has been a "lie," and why is he so angry with Rahim Khan?

Chapter 18

1. Amir says, "How could I have been so _____?"
2. In the restaurant, Amir notices that where the legs of the table make an X there is a ring of what ?
3. What is *nang* or *namoos*?
4. According to Amir, why was Baba the worst kind of thief?
5. What does Amir now realize about himself and Baba?
6. Rahim Khan has asked Amir to visit him to make up for whose sins?
7. How can the "cycle of lies, betrayals, and secrets" end? (
8. Baba said that Amir's biggest problem was what?
9. In one of his first acts of courage, Amir tells Rahim Khan he is going where?
10. When Rahim Khan says he will pray for Amir, what is it that he might be praying for exactly?

Chapter 19

1. Describe Khyber Pass.
2. What was the name of Amir's cab driver?
3. What did Amir have to wear? Why?
4. What is a burqa? Pakol?
5. Why was the cab driver so rude to Amir?
6. Why didn't the women make eye contact?
7. How did Farid's brother Wahid treat Amir?
8. What did Amir give the children? Why?
9. Describe Amir's dream. What is the significance?
10. Amir planted money under the mattress just like he did twenty-six years before. What is the significance of this?
11. What does the taxi driver offer Amir? Why does he lie about it making him feel better?
12. Describe Farid's family. How come he only has five children now?
13. What were the preparations that Amir had to make in order to go to Kabul?
14. Why did Amir decide to leave for Kabul so soon, even when Rahim Khan had asked him to stay for a few more days?
15. Why couldn't he tell Soraya that he was going to Afghanistan?
16. How does Amir feel about being in Afghanistan? What is the taxi driver's response? What does he say about Amir that is true? Why is he so offended?
17. Who were the dozds?
18. Who are Amir and Farid staying with?
19. What does Wahid tell Amir he should write about?
20. How is Wahid's opinion of Amir different from that of Farid's?
21. What does Wahid say to Amir after Amir tells him of Hassan and Sorhab? Why does he cringe inside after he hears it?
22. What does Farid say to Amir before they go to bed? How has his tone changed? Why?
23. What does Amir dream? How is this different from what really happens? Why do you think he is dreaming this?
24. How does Amir finally feel about Afghanistan as he steps outside of Wahid's place?
25. What has Amir left under the mattress? What does this reveal about his character? Do you believe he is static or dynamic?

Chapter 20

1. What had Farid warned Amir about? Why wasn't Amir ready for this?
2. How long did it take to get to Kabul when Amir used to live in Afghanistan? How long does it take now? Why?
3. Describe Kabul in several sentences.
4. What does Farid tell him about the kites? About the police?
5. Why isn't Amir supposed to look the Taliban in the eyes?
6. When the beggar says, "How seamless seemed love, and then came trouble." What does this mean? How does it relate to what has happened in Kabul with the Taliban?
7. What happened to Baba's orphanage?
8. Why is Farid treating Amir differently now?
9. Why were "fathers a rare commodity in Afghanistan"? (p. 245)
10. What advice did Farid give Amir regarding the Taliban?
11. What did Amir learn about his mother? From whom?
12. Why are children with mothers but not fathers considered orphans in Afghanistan? Why can't their mothers take care of them?
13. Why did Farid become so upset with the orphanage director?
14. What was Zaman's excuse for his behavior?
15. What would you do if you were in Zaman's position?
16. What was the old beggar's profession? Why is Amir intrigued?
17. What were some of the details the beggar told Amir about his mother?
18. What are the two reasons Amir thinks Baba might not have told him much about his mother?
19. Why didn't Amir and Farid mention the coincidence of the beggar knowing his mother? What does Amir say about this incidence?
20. Describe the orphanage
21. What does the man at the orphanage say about the picture that Amir hands him? Why? Why doesn't he want to open the door?
22. Why does he finally let them in? What piece of information did it take?
23. How many orphans stay at the orphanage?
24. Why may it be too late for Sorhab? Why is it dangerous?
25. Why is Farid so angry at the director of the orphanage?
26. How do they find the man who has been taking the children?
27. How do you feel about the orphanage director? What would you have done if you were he?

Chapter 21

1. Describe the Khyber Restaurant. Why is the Restaurant this way? Why has Amir been there before?
2. What is hanging nearby? What is the people's reaction to this?
3. Why was the man on the corner trying to sell his leg?
4. Who does Farid say are "the brains" of the Taliban?
5. Describe Amir's flashback as they enter the street he used to live on.
6. How did Amir feel as he looked at his old house? Describe the house as Amir saw it.
7. Why does Farid keep prodding him to leave... to hurry up?
8. What does Amir want to do? Why does he think this is insane?
9. What does Farid tell Amir to do? Why does Amir take his ten minutes anyway?
10. What was Amir looking for? Why? Does he find it?
11. Describe the hotel Amir stays in? Why is he not upset that they charge so much?
12. Describe Ghaza Stadium... the smells, the noise...(sensory imagery)
13. What will happen if they catch the man selling "sexy" pictures? What are the women wearing in the pictures? Would this be considered "sexy" in our country? Why is it so taboo in Afghanistan?
14. What do they do with the woman and the blind folded man? Why are they doing this?
15. Summarize what the cleric says to the crowd.
16. Describe the man with the broad shoulders and discuss what does he do to the "accused"?
17. Why does Amir refer to the man as John Lennon? Why is this ironic?
18. Predict what might happen when Amir meets with this man. What do you feel about this?
19. Why were the houses in Amir's old neighborhood still in good shape?
20. What did Amir need to see the most at his old house?
21. What made Amir stop laughing and think that maybe Afghanistan was a hopeless place?
22. What was the half time show for the soccer game?
23. What crime did the couple commit? What was their punishment? Who was the executioner?