

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

- Did Ali know that Hassan was not his son?
- *The Kite Runner* is about relationships. Which ones seem most dominant?
- The book is full of parallels (and opposites). Name a few.
- Do you think kite flying is a metaphor? For what? Does its meaning change over the course of the book?
- Name some other recurring motifs in the book. What do you think they stand for?
- Here is a very brief summary (with thanks to Novelist) of the story Rostam and Sohrab, mentioned in *The Kite Runner* as a favorite of Amir and Sohrab: “Rostam and Sohrab is a 10th century epic of Persian heroes. In the story, the great warrior Rostam defeats and mortally wounds the warrior Sohrab in battle, only to discover that Sohrab is in fact his long-lost son.” Why would Hassan name his son for a man who is killed by his father?
- The relationship between Amir and Baba is complex. In the beginning, Amir is always vying for Baba’s attention. Baba shuts him out in the early part of their relationship; after Amir wins the kite running championship it changes. However, Amir is still unhappy. Later, Amir views their relationship differently. (page 226, 2nd paragraph).
- “Here is another cliché my creative writing teacher would have scoffed at; like father like son. But, it was true, wasn’t it? As it turned out, Baba and I were more alike than I’d ever known. We had both betrayed the people who would have given their lives for us. And with that came this realization: that Rahim Khan had summoned me there to atone not just for my sins but for Baba’s too.” Discuss Amir and Baba’s relationship.
- In America, Amir and Baba’s relationship changes. Do you view the changes as tragic or positive?
- Is Amir afraid to be Hassan’s true friend? Why is Amir always testing Hassan? Why does he feel such a rivalry? Why not teach him how to read?
- “There is a way to be good again.” (p. 190) What do you think Rahim meant by that? What do you think Amir thought Rahim meant by that?
- Why did Hassan agree to return to Kabul with Rahim only after learning of Baba’s death?
- Would Amir have gone to Kabul to save Sohrab if the child had not been related to him by blood?
- Why is Farid (Amir’s driver) so significant in Amir’s journey? On his trip back to Afghanistan, Amir stays at the home of his driver, Farid. When Amir leaves the house, he remarks: “Earlier that morning, when I was certain no one was looking, I did something I had done twenty-six years earlier: I planted a fistful of crumpled money under the mattress.” Why is this moment important in Amir’s journey?
- Do you think Sohrab’s suicide attempt was crucial to the story? How?
- Does this novel have a happy ending?



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