*The Kite Runner* Essay Topics

Choose one of the following and create a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay response.

1. There is an expression, “What goes around, comes around.” Many things in the novel come full circle. Discuss at least four examples from the novel that complete this cycle. Consider why Hosseini adds this literary technique. What are some things in real life that come full circle?
2. Do you identify with Amir in any way? Most students see at least a glimmer of themselves in this character: his relationship with his dad, his regret at not being a good friend, his jealousy of Hassan…In what ways are you like Amir?
3. In the book, it states “People need stories to divert them at difficult times” (139). Does reading about someone else’s life and struggle make it easier to cope with your own? What do you read/listen to/do to escape your troubles? Why?
4. Baba’s life changes drastically when he immigrates to America. He goes from being a rich businessman to a gas station attendant. Have you and/or your parents immigrated to America? How has that experience shaped your family? What challenges and successes did this move grant you?
5. When Amir describes America to Fahrid, it sounds like a magical place. What do you think of when you hear the term “The American Dream”? Does this dream truly exist or is it simply a dream—unattainable?
6. *The Kite Runner* explores the different ways of being a man: Baba—successful and unemotional; Rahim Khan—the loyal confidant; Ali and Hassan—the strong but humble servants; Amir—the questioning thinker who feels deeply. What do you think it takes to be a good man? Does our culture support this ideal? Explain.
7. *The Kite Runner* is a morality tale—it teaches a moral(s). What are the lessons this book teaches us. Remember, morals usually deal with human behavior.
8. *The Kite Runner* is a book that makes you feel. This is a book that many readers say effected them. Explore the emotions you experienced during the reading of *The Kite Runner*. What other books/events/works have affected you in a similar way?
9. Secrets play a huge role in the novel. What are different types of secrets? Why do people harbor secrets that could destroy their chance at happiness? Why do humans feel the need to tell the truth—the whole truth?
10. In a flashback, Amir recalls a time he and Hassan pretended a turtle they caught was a monstrous, pre-historic creature. Re-read the excerpt on page 261 several times. Notice how Hosseini describes the memory in a way that shows rather than tells. Recall a memory of your own from childhood, and write it in a similar fashion. Remember to describe the event in a way that SHOWS rather than TELLS.

Create your own prompt on a topic of your choice. Consider the following concepts from the novel:

One’s role when dealing with a bully

How the political affects the personal

Father/Son (Parent/Child) relationships

Racism/Bigotry/Social Class

The nature of power

How there is a “way to be good again”.

How some people love in a way that they would do things “a thousand times over for you.”

How “from guilt comes good”.

The role of forgiveness

Loss and Acceptance

Sporting events (like kite running) as a means of bringing people together

Considerations for structuring your essay in the following way:

An introduction that begins with the novel, since the novel inspired the prompt that you are exploring

A thesis that sets the focus for your reader by addressing the prompt

Body paragraphs that explore the prompt thoroughly

A conclusion that brings your thoughts full-circle

Quotes from the text that support your observations

Essay should be 3-5pages, typed, double-spaced

Questions adapted, in part, from Tara Colborne’s blog “English 11”