



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficial, the Most Merciful

ELEVENTH GRADE SUMMER READING 2017

Schedule and Assignment

Be sure to read and answer the reading questions through your annotations. These guide your reading, so you can better understand the major points. Be sure to note **IMAGERY, SYMBOLISM, SIMILES, METAPHORS, IRONY, CHARACTERIZATION**, and any other details. Explain the **SO WHAT** for full credit. You will need to have at least **ONE** annotation per chapter. Be **THOROUGH!!** The more time you take to read and understand the content and its implications, the better prepared you will be for the **TEST (August 9th)**, essay and class activities.

Be forewarned, there is some mature subject matter in this text. There is also some language. The author uses it to enhance the characters (and make us feel a certain way towards particular groups). Overall, the novel takes a war-torn region that we know little about and creates a universal story of redemption, friendship, loyalty, prejudice and the relationship between fathers and their sons.

Week ONE- Ch. 1-5 (pages 1-47)

1. The novel begins with a flashback. What do you think is its purpose? What do you learn about the narrator?
2. What does Baba give Hassan for his birthday? What does his present suggest about his character? How does Amir react to this present? Why did the present turn out to be ironic?
3. Who is Assef? What is his ancestry? What is he famous for? What is his political vision?

Week TWO-Ch. 6-9 (pages 48-109)

4. In chapter 6, how does Amir feel about Hassan? (Think about his conflicted feelings.) What does he mean by "my life as a ghost"? p. 56
5. What is inscribed on the pomegranate tree in the back yard? So, why then is it significant that Amir tries to pick a fight with Hassan in front of that tree? (Think symbolism.) What ends up happening? Why is that symbolic?
6. How is the end of chapter nine a turning point in the novel?

Week THREE- Ch.10-14 (pages 110-194)

7. “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?
8. NOTE FORESHADOWING AND IRONY IN CHAPTER 10!!!

Week FOUR- Ch.15-20 (pages 195-258)

9. In Chapter 17, Rahim gives Amir a letter from Hassan, who wrote it six months before. What is the tone of this letter? How does Amir react?
10. How does the cliché, "like father, like son" mentioned on page 226, relate to Baba and Amir?
11. What clues hint at the secret that is revealed in Chapters 17-18?
12. In Chapter 20, Amir sees Kabul for the first time since leaving. Describe what he sees and note similarities to other war-torn countries. Try to connect to personal experiences of returning to a place after a long time or experiences you have read about.

Week FIVE- Ch. 21-25 (pages 259-371)

13. In Chapter 22, we encounter many “full-circle” endings as we reach the climax, or turning point, of the plot. List three.
14. Think about the ending of the novel. Is there any symbolism? On what TONE does the novel end?

Themes to connect annotations to:

- Bullying
- Coming of Age
- Role of books, literacy
- Resilience of the human spirit
- Friendship, guilty & redemption
- Man's inhumanity to man
- Fathers & sons
- Discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, class structure
- Master/slave relationships: loyalty & devotion vs. duty