The Kite Runner: Chapters 10-14

1. You have heard how “life can change in the blink of an eye.” As we were reading Chapter 10, you were asked to think about your home and your belongings. If you had to leave right now, with only a select few items, what would they be? If you knew you would never see your house again, your friends, or the life that you once knew, how do you think that would make you feel? Now put yourselves in Baba and Amir’s shoes. They are forced to leave everything behind. How do you think this affects them?
2. What is karma? How does this relate to Kamal? Was he deserving of his fate? Do you believe Amir deserves negative karma?
3. “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” (-Amir)

What is the significance of this quote concerning Amir? How do feelings and opinions of America differ between Amir and Baba? Why? Does this relate to their ages/generations? Do you ever feel that you and your parents look at many things differently because of your age gap?

1. Everyone deals with hardship, stress and change differently. Can you think of a personal example of something you have been through and show how you dealt with it? How do Amir and Baba deal with hardship, stress and change? They certainly deal with it all very differently. Give examples.
2. Would you say you have a family that supports you in following your goals and dreams? What is it you aspire to have either in the near future or within your lifetime? What is it that Amir wants for his future? Does Baba support this? Explain.
3. What health issues do we learn Baba is suffering from? How does he handle it all? How does Amir handle it?
4. Are you currently dating someone or have you ever been in a relationship? How did you meet? How long was it before you met each other’s families? Now that you have read, compare and contrast it to dating in Afghan culture. Discuss how this relates to Amir and Soraya. Do they follow proper “Afghan protocol”?
5. Strong relationships are based on trust and communication. Discuss Amir and Soraya’s relationship. Do you feel their relationship is solid and based on trust? Explain. What are some of the hardships they face once married?
6. In 1989, what is going on in Afghanistan? Who are the Mujahedin? Who is in charge?

10. Chapter 14 brings us back to the opening of the book again: the telephone call from Rahim Khan. “There is a way to be good again.” What is Rahim asking Amir to do?

11.Much has changed and occurred during these last five chapters. Hosseini has a way of telling a story within a story. Chapters 1-5 dealt with background and introducing us to the major characters and Afghanistan. Chapters 6-9 dealt with the event that changed the course of the story and the lives of all characters involved. How would you characterize and describe chapters 10-14? What are your thoughts on Amir now, as an adult? Is there any change in your opinion since chapters 6-9? Were you surprised to read that he is heading back to Pakistan?