The Kite Runner: Chapters 6-9

1. What is your favorite time of year? For what reason? What is Amir and Hassan’s favorite time of year? Why? Give specific examples. What are the similarities between your reasoning and Amir and Hassan’s?
2. Have you ever made an important decision that strongly influenced your life? Have you ever looked back and wondered how your life would be different if you chose another path? Explain.
3. “I opened my mouth and almost said something…the rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had” (p.73) -Amir.

There are many moments that foreshadow this pivotal scene that becomes Amir’s biggest regret. What is specifically mentioned in chapters 6 and 7 (referring back to pages 54-55, 59-60 and 73-74). How do these situations, memories and dreams foreshadow this dark act? How did it change the relationship between Amir and Hassan and the course of the novel?

1. “For you a thousand times over” (p.67) –Hassan.

Hassan has certainly demonstrated his loyalty. Even after that infamous, dismal day of the kite fighting tournament, and all the awkwardness that ensued between Amir and Hassan, he remained extremely loyal. In what ways? Explain.

1. “I became what I am at the age of 12, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek. That was a long time ago, but it’s wrong what they say about the past, I learned, about how you can bury it. Because the past claws its way out. Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years” (p.1) –Amir

We are back to the first paragraph of this novel again. Does it make more sense now? What is Amir feeling…then and now?

1. Baba says there is only one sin, and that is theft. “There is no act more wretched than stealing, Amir…A man who takes what is not his to take, be it a life or a loaf of naan…I spit on such a man. And if I ever cross paths with him, God help him.” (p. 18). How has Amir committed this sin thus far? What is your reaction to Baba after hearing Hassan committed this sin? Did it surprise you?
2. What makes an author and his/her writing effective, is the usage of characterization, imagery and his/her ability to evoke emotion, good or bad. How is Hosseini successful with all of this thus far? What are your feelings towards each character? What is your opinion of this novel so far?