The Kite Runner: Chapters 1-5

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.”

This is how the novel begins. What is the tone of this quote? What may this chapter foreshadow? What else leads you to this belief?

We will refer back to how this novel began, time and time again.

1. We are introduced to Baba, Amir, Ali, Hassan and Rahim Kahn. Create a graphic organizer of sorts or diagram where you can show the relationships between the main characters. Then, describe each character clearly illustrating the characterization Hosseini uses to introduce us to these characters. Refer back to the novel so details are precise (providing physical descriptions). Include page number please.
2. Before we began reading, we discussed in detail, our perception of Afghanistan today. Reiterate some of your original thoughts. Now that you have read the first five chapters, how is Kabul different than what you originally thought? Hosseini is excellent with imagery. Provide 3-4 quotes, with page numbers, to paint a clear picture of Baba and Amir’s home, Ali and Hassan’s home, and Afghanistan in general.
3. Think of your relationship with your parents/guardians, siblings or relatives. Who do you feel you are most like? Who do you connect with most? Maybe you open up to an Aunt or Uncle, a cousin or a friend? Now think of Amir. What is his relationship like with his father? Hassan? Who is he most like and who does he most connect with? Explain.
4. Every story has to have an antagonist. In this story, Assef has been introduced to us. How old do you think he is? What is his belief system?
5. We discussed our morals and values before beginning. Describe Baba’s morals, values and beliefs. Do you agree after what we discussed prior to reading? Why or why not?
6. Now that you have been officially introduced to the novel and the main characters, what are your opinions of them? Did you have either a sibling or childhood friend that you did everything with? Can you connect or relate in any way?
7. Is there a scene, event or moment that stood out most to you in these chapters?