

The Kite Runner

Directed by Marc Forster

Preparing for the Film

1. What do you know about Afghanistan, its culture, history, religion, landscape?
2. What conditions do educated, upper-class people often face when they move to another country and start their lives over again?
3. What are the characteristics of children who have been traumatized?
4. If you have read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, what are some challenges a director might have when adapting the novel for a film version?

Reflecting on the Film

1. At the beginning of the film, what qualities does the audience perceive in the friendship between Amir and Hassan? By the end of the film, what is discovered about their relationship?
2. After the kite-flying festival, when Hassan runs to get Amir's kite, what happens to him? How does this event impact the boys' friendship?
3. In what ways is Amir's birthday party significant? How is his father's gift of a watch an essential element to the plot and theme of the film?
4. What is the political climate of Afghanistan when Amir and Hassan are boys? Why does Amir's father leave for Pakistan?
5. As Baba and Amir are escaping to Pakistan, they are stopped by a Russian who intends to molest a young mother on the truck. How does Baba handle the situation? Why is this encounter especially trying for Amir?
6. How does the film characterize the Afghani community of Fremont? Cite specific details of the economic and social dynamics of the expatriates.
7. What is Amir's wife Soraya's secret and how does Amir respond to it? What might Amir have told Soraya of his history?
8. Why does Rahim Khan summon Amir to Pakistan? Why does Amir then go on to Kabul?
9. How does the film lead the audience to see that Sohrab is Hassan's son?
10. In addition to being a part of the culture of Amir and Hassan's boyhood, what thematic significance does kite flying have?
11. Explain the meaning of each of the following expressions or aphorisms and analyze the thematic significance of each in terms of the film:
 - "It's a dangerous thing being born."

- "Stealing is the only sin and all sins are variations of this sin."
- " I admire your notion of fair odds, mister."
- "I'd rather eat dirt."
- "There is a way to be good again."

Writing about the Film

1. Write a comparison and contrast of the personalities, behavior, and values of Amir and Hassan. Support your thesis with interpretations of specific scenes from the film.
2. Write a study of the relationship between Amir and Baba that uses analysis of key scenes from both Afghanistan and California to support your thesis.
3. Take at least three of the quotations cited in Question 11 of the Reflecting about the Film section. After explaining what each means and how each functions in the plot, analyze the significance of each expression to the themes in the film.
4. If you have read Khaled Hosseini's novel, write an analysis of the most significant changes made in the film version. Include details from both the book and the film for support.

Works Cited

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Penguin, 2003. Print.

The Kite Runner. Dir. Marc Forster. Perf. Khalid Abdalla, Atossa Leoni, Shaun Toub, Sayed Jafar Masihullah Gharibzada, Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada, Homayoun Ershadi, Nabi Tanha, and Elham Ehsas. Paramount Vantage. 2007. Film.

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http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/14/movies/14kite.html?_r=0

<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-kite-runner-2007>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2007/dec/14/entertainment/et-kite14>