

The Kite Runner

Close Reading Organizer & Quote Analysis

Chapters 8 – 12

Name: _____

Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 8

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>For a week after the tournament, Amir hardly sees Hassan. He asks Ali where he is, and Ali says that Hassan just wants to stay in bed all day. Ali asks Amir if he knows what happened after the kite tournament, but Amir rudely denies knowing anything. Amir and Baba decide to take a trip to the city of Jalalabad and stay with Baba's cousin – after Amir's victory, he and Baba act much closer. Baba wants to take Hassan, but Amir says that he is too sick to go.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>By the time Baba and Amir actually leave for Jalalabad, Baba has invited many family members and friends to come along too. In the car Amir's relatives praise him for his kite fighting victory, but Amir gets no joy from their praise and in fact gets car sick, throwing up on his cousin's dress. When they reach Jalalabad they have a large, traditional Afghan dinner. Baba boasts about Amir but again Amir feels sick. He wonders why he is not happy now that he has gotten what he wanted – Baba's approval.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
That night all the men sleep in the same room, but Amir lies awake tossing and turning. He says out loud that he watched Hassan get raped, but no one hears him. He thinks about Hassan's dream about the monster in the lake, and Amir feels that <i>he</i> is the monster. He says that this was the night he became an insomniac.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
When Amir and Baba return to Kabul, Hassan asks Amir to go up to their favorite hill. They sit under the pomegranate tree and Amir is sickened by the words he had once carved in the tree. Hassan asks Amir to read to him, but Amir says he has changed his mind and wants to go home, and the two boys walk back down in silence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The rest of the winter passes with Amir avoiding Hassan and pretending his new, close relationship with Baba will last forever, even though it is only held together by something as fragile as a kite . Hassan keeps trying to rekindle their friendship. One day he asks Amir what he has done wrong, and why they don't play anymore, and Amir tells Hassan to stop harassing him. After that, they avoid each other, but Amir still feels suffocated by Hassan's presence and the constant reminders of Hassan's loyalty and Amir's own betrayal.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
One day while they are gardening, Amir asks Baba if he has ever thought about getting new servants. Baba is furious at the question and says that he will never replace Ali , and that Hassan is not going anywhere. After that things grow cool again between Baba and Amir. Amir starts school, and he uses his homework as an excuse to spend long hours in his room alone.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
One afternoon after school Amir asks Hassan to walk up the hill with him so Amir can read a story he has written. Hassan is	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
excited to go, and they sit under their pomegranate tree. Amir suddenly picks up a pomegranate and asks Hassan what he would do if he threw it at him. Hassan says nothing, and Amir starts pelting him with pomegranates. He yells at Hassan to hit him back, but Hassan won't. Finally Hassan crushes a pomegranate against his own forehead and asks if Amir is satisfied. Then Hassan leaves, covered in red juice, and Amir starts to cry.							
That summer (1976) Amir turns thirteen, and Baba decides to throw him a huge party, though their relationship is growing distant again. Baba invites more than 400 people, most of whom Amir does not know. Many of the workers who set up the party do their jobs for free, as Baba has helped them out in the past.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
When the party begins Baba makes Amir greet each guest personally. Assef arrives and jokes politely with Baba, and he gives Amir a gift he says he picked out himself. Amir is visibly distressed by Assef's presence and subtle taunting, and Baba is embarrassed and has to apologize for his behavior. Amir escapes the crowd for a moment and hides behind a wall to open Assef's present – a biography of Hitler. He throws it away and sinks to the ground.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
As Amir sits alone in the dark, Rahim Khan approaches and starts to talk to him, saying that he was almost married once, to a Hazara girl. They would meet in secret and plan their future life together. When Rahim Khan told his family, his mother fainted and his father sent the girl and her family away. Rahim Khan says it was for the best in the end, as his family would have made his life miserable.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

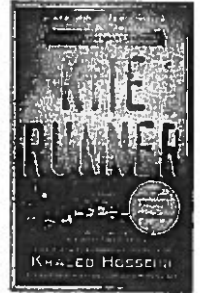
Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Rahim Khan then says that he is always there if Amir needs to tell him something. Amir almost confesses everything, but again he says nothing. Rahim Khan gives Amir a leather-bound notebook to write stories in.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Suddenly fireworks start up and interrupt their conversation. Amir and Rahim Khan hurry back to the house. In the glow of the fireworks Amir sees Hassan serving drinks to Wali and a grinning Assef.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 8

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



I thought about Hassan's dream, the one about us swimming in the lake. *There is no monster*, he'd said, *just water*. Except he'd been wrong about that. There was a monster in the lake... I was that monster.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 9

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
The next morning Amir opens his birthday presents, but none of them give him any pleasure and he tosses them aside. Baba gives him a new bike and a nice watch. The only gift Amir doesn't immediately discard is Rahim Khan's notebook. Amir sits on his bed and thinks about what Rahim Khan said about his Hazara lover, and how it was better in the end that she was dismissed. He decides that either he or Hassan must leave the household.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
As Amir is leaving on his new bike, Ali stops him and gives him a present from him and Hassan – a glossy new book of old Persian stories (including "Rostam and Sohrab") called the <i>Shahnamah</i> . Amir feels unworthy of the book, but he thanks Ali and rides guiltily on.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The next morning Amir waits for Ali and Hassan to go out grocery shopping, and then he hides some of his birthday money and his watch from Baba under Hassan's mattress. Then he knocks on Baba's door	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
and tells him that Hassan stole the watch and money. When Ali and Hassan return, Baba confronts Ali, who goes back to speak with Hassan. Then Baba decides to sit down all together and settle the matter.							
The four gather in the study, and Baba asks Hassan directly if he stole the watch and money. To Amir's surprise, Hassan says that he did. At that moment Amir understands that Hassan saw him in the alley, and he realizes that Hassan is making one last sacrifice for him now, despite his great betrayal. Amir feels the full horror of his guilt then, and again he feels like the monster in the lake.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Baba forgives Ali and Hassan, which also surprises Amir – as Baba had considered theft the worst of sins – but Ali insists that they must leave. Baba begs him to stay, but refuses and draws Hassan close, as if protecting him. Amir knows that it is he Hassan must be protected from. Baba cries for the first time that Amir has ever witnessed, and even Ali's paralyzed face twitches in pain, and then Amir understands the enormity of the suffering he has caused. Ali says that he will go live with his cousin in Hazarajat. He will not let Baba drive him all the way there, but only to the busstation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
It hardly ever rains in the summer in Kabul, but it rains the day Ali and Hassan leave. Amir watches from inside his bedroom as Baba tries one last time to convince them to stay. Then they drive away and Amir realizes that the life he has known is now over.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 9

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society









<p>I flinched, like I'd been slapped... Then I understood: This was Hassan's final sacrifice for me... And that led to another understanding: Hassan knew. He knew I'd seen everything in that alley, that I'd stood there and done nothing. He knew I had betrayed him and yet he was rescuing me once again, maybe for the last time.</p>	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Themes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 10

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

-  1 Betrayal
-  2 Redemption
-  3 Fathers and Children
-  4 Violence and Rape
-  5 Memory and the Past
-  6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>The story jumps to March of 1981. Amir and Baba, along with several others, are in the back of a truck fleeing Afghanistan for Pakistan. The drive is bumpy and makes Amir feel car sick, which Baba sees as another of Amir's weaknesses. They had to flee at night and leave no evidence of their escape, because informers are everywhere. Afghanistan is under the control of Afghan communists and Russian soldiers. They have turned everyone against each other, and people inform on each other for money or under duress.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The driver, Karim, is first taking them to Jalalabad, where his brother will drive them the rest of the way to Peshawar, Pakistan. Karim has an arrangement with the Russian soldiers that guard the road. They arrive at a checkpoint, and a young Russian soldier eyes a woman in the truck and decides to increase the price of passing through – he wants half an hour with the woman.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Baba stands up and tries to shame the Russian soldier, but the soldier says there is no shame in war. Baba still won't stand aside and the soldier threatens to shoot him. Amir tries to get Baba to sit down, but he pushes Amir away. Just before the soldier shoots, another Russian stops him. When the truck starts moving again, the young woman's husband kisses Baba's hand.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
When the truck reaches Jalalabad, Karim tells them that his brother Toor can no longer take them to Peshawar, as his truck broke down the week before. Baba is furious that Karim kept this information from them just so he could get paid for his leg of the journey, and he attacks Karim and starts strangling him until the young woman asks him to stop.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The group then joins a larger group of refugees who are staying in a basement. Amir recognizes Kamal among them, but he looks sickly and old. Amir overhears Kamal's father explaining what happened to him – four men caught Kamal while he was out alone and raped him, and now Kamal no longer speaks, but just stares.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Karim finally finds a way to get the refugees to Pakistan, but it is not his brother's truck – it is a fuel truck. Before they get in the truck Baba picks up a handful of Afghan dirt, kisses it, and stows it in a snuff box next to his heart. Inside the truck it is terrifyingly dark and the air is thick with fumes, which makes it hard to breathe. Amir is saved from his panic by the small light of Baba's wristwatch. Baba whispers in his ear to think of something happy, and Amir immediately thinks of a day flying kites with Hassan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
They arrive in Pakistan and unload the truck. Amir is saddened by the sight of Baba's two suitcases – the result of all his life's work, along with "one disappointing son." Suddenly Kamal's father starts screaming, as Kamal isn't breathing. Kamal's father lunges for Karim and wrests his gun away. Before anyone can stop him, he puts the gun in his own mouth and pulls the trigger.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 10

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



<p>In the morning, Jalaluddin... would probably think we'd gone out for a stroll or a drive. We hadn't told him. You couldn't trust anyone in Kabul anymore – for a fee or under threat, people told on each other, neighbor on neighbor, child on parent, brother on brother, servant on master, friend on friend.</p>	Speakers:
	Related character(s):
	Related Themes: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 11

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>The story skips forward in time, and Baba and Amir have been living in Fremont, California for almost two years. Baba likes the idea of America, but he has a hard time adjusting to the culture shock. One day at a convenience store where he often shops, Baba overturns a magazine rack in anger that the manager asked to see his ID when Baba used a check. Baba is enraged at the lack of trust and honor in this society, and Amir tries to apologize to the owners and defuse the situation.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>That night Amir asks if they should go back to Pakistan, where they had spent six months waiting to get U.S. visas, but Baba says they are in America for Amir's sake, not his own. Amir thinks bitterly that this is yet another gift he does not deserve, though he is glad to be in a place so far from home, where he can try to bury his old guilt.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Baba works at a gas station for twelve hours a day, six days a week. He was offered food stamps, but he rejected them with pride.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir, meanwhile graduates high school at the age of twenty, and Baba is truly proud at his graduation ceremony.							
That night Baba takes Amir to an Afghan kabob house, where he buys drinks for everyone and starts an impromptu party. After dinner Baba shows Amir his graduation present – an old Ford Grand Torino to take to college. Amir is moved with gratitude, but then Baba says he wishes that Hassan was there too and Amir feels suddenly suffocated.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The day after his graduation Amir tells Baba that he wants to study creative writing, knowing that Baba will disapprove. Baba does indeed think the degree will be useless, but he does nothing more than grumble. Amir feels guilty thinking of Baba working so hard while he leaves to pursue his dream, but he decides he will stand firm and not sacrifice anything else for Baba's approval.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir likes to take long drives in his car alone, past rich neighborhoods and poor ones. He says the first time he saw the Pacific, he almost cried. America has become a place for Amir to bury the ghosts of his past – his memories of war-torn Kabul and his guilt for his betrayal of Hassan. America is huge and moves quickly like a river, and Amir embraces the country because it helps him forget.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The next summer, in 1984, Baba buys an old van and spends his Saturday going around filling it up with purchases from garage sales. Then on Sunday, he and Amir set up a booth at a flea market and sell everything for a profit. Soon there is a whole section of the flea market made up of only Afghan families. It becomes a close community,	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
.th food and gossip flowing constantly between the booths.							
One Sunday Baba introduces Amir to a man named General Taheri , who is very traditional and formal in his appearance and demeanor. Baba tells him that Amir will be a great writer someday, and Taheri insists that Amir should appreciate Baba, who is a great man. Then General Taheri's daughter Soraya comes over with his tea, and she and Amir briefly exchange glances.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
On the way home Amir asks Baba about Soraya – he had heard rumors about her before. Baba is unwilling to spread gossip, but he says that Soraya was romantically involved with a man once, but it didn't go well. Since this "loss of honor" no men have tried to court her. That night Amir falls asleep thinking of Soraya's face.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 11

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



Long before the *Roussi* army marched into Afghanistan, long before villages were burned and schools destroyed... Kabul had become a city of ghosts for me. A city of harelipped ghosts. 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. Someplace with no ghosts, no memories, and no sins.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 12

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
After meeting Soraya , Amir thinks about her constantly – he compares his every night to <i>yelda</i> , the Afghan first night of winter, when tormented lovers wait for their beloveds. Almost an entire year passes before Amir gets up the nerve to talk to her. Baba understands what is going on, and he warns Amir that General Taheri is a very traditional Pashtun, and greatly concerned with his daughter's chastity.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir goes to the Taheris' booth while the General is away and he greets Soraya , who is reading a book. When he asks her what she is reading, he understands that the conversation now has potential for gossip, and he recognizes that the Afghan double standard will judge Soraya for "flirting" with him if she engages. She responds, and they discuss stories and writing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Soraya's mother, Jamila , appears and interrupts the conversation. She offers Amir a seat but he does the polite thing and declines, referring to her formally as	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
"Khanum Taheri." Amir can see the excitement in her eyes that a man has been talking to Soraya, and he feels guilty for the power he wields just because he is a man.							
For a few weeks after that, Amir goes over to her booth and talks to Soraya only when General Taheri is away. Soraya reveals that her dream is to be a teacher, and she tells Amir how as a child she had taught her father's servant to read. Amir feels guilty then, remembering how he had used his education to mock Hassan, not to help him.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir gives Soraya one of his stories, but suddenly General Taheri appears and Soraya looks terrified. The General throws Amir's story in the trash and reminds him that he is among other Afghans, and that they will gossip. Amir is disheartened by this encounter, but he has no time to brood because soon after that Baba gets sick.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
At first Baba only has a bad cold, but then Amir catches him coughing up blood. Amir takes him to a hospital, and then to several specialists – one of whom Baba refuses to speak to because he is Russian – and finally he is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. The doctors want to give him chemotherapy to prolong his life, but Baba proudly refuses treatment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
After Baba's diagnosis, Amir breaks down and wonders aloud what he will do when Baba dies. Baba is ashamed of the question, and says that all his life he has been trying to teach Amir how to stand up on his own. He also forbids Amir from telling anyone about his illness, as Baba doesn't want any sympathy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Baba grows progressively weaker but keeps working and going to the flea market. He starts losing a lot of weight though, and people begin to notice his sickness. One	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
ay at the flea market Baba collapses and has a seizure. At the hospital, the doctor says that the cancer has spread to Baba's brain.							
The next morning Afghans fill the waiting room, wanting to visit Baba . The Taheris arrive and Soraya comforts Amir . Two days later Baba is discharged from the hospital, and that night Amir asks him to go to General Taheri and ask for his permission to marry Soraya. Baba is pleased and proud, and the next day he goes. Amir has to wait nervously at home until Baba calls. He says that General Taheri has accepted, and then he says that Soraya wants to tell Amir something in private.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Soraya gets on the phone and says she is happy that her father approved, but she must tell Amir about her past, as she doesn't want any secrets between them. When she was eighteen and living in Virginia, she ran away with an Afghan man. They lived together for almost a month until General Taheri found them and took Soraya home, screaming and cursing at him. When she came home she saw that her mother had had a stroke, and she felt responsible for it. She was glad, in the end, that her father took her away.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Soraya asks if her story bothers Amir , and he admits it does a little bit, but he still wants to marry her. He feels that he of all people is in no position to judge anyone for a troubled past. Soraya weeps with joy at his acceptance, and Amir envies her because her secret has been confessed and dealt with. He is still too afraid to tell her about Hassan .	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 12

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



I envied her. Her secret was out. Spoken. Dealt with. I opened my mouth and almost told her how I'd betrayed Hassan, lied, driven him out, and destroyed a forty-year relationship between Baba and Ali. But I didn't.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6