

The Kite Runner

Close Reading Organizer & Quote Analysis

Chapters 20 – 25

Name: _____

Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 20

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 drive to Kabul Amir is horrified by the results of two wars – old burned-out Soviet tanks, overturned Russian jeeps, destroyed villages. When they reach Kabul, Amir does not even recognize it as his old home. Rubble and orphaned beggars are everywhere, and the trees have all been cut down. The Soviets cut them down because they could hide snipers, and then the Afghans cut them down for firewood. There are no more kites, and the streets smell like diesel instead of lamb kabob.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>A Taliban patrol approaches in a red pickup truck, with a few bearded men in the back with AK-47s. Amir can't help staring at them in terror. Once they pass, Farid angrily warns Amir not to stare at them again, as the Taliban will use even the slightest provocation as an excuse for violence.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>old beggar agrees with Farid's warning, and Amir starts to speak to him. The beggar talks about how the Taliban were first welcomed as heroes, and he quotes the</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
poet Hafez . Amir recognizes the line, and the beggar explains that he used to teach literature at the university. He knew Amir's mother (who was also a teacher), Sofia Akrami , and Amir begs him for details about her, as Baba rarely spoke of her. The beggar cannot remember much, however, and soon Farid and Amir have to go. Amir muses on how the coincidence of meeting such a man should seem unlikely, but Afghans all know at least someone in common.							
Amir and Farid find the new orphanage (which replaced Baba's , which was destroyed) where Sohrab is supposed to be. The director, Zaman , is very wary of their questions and at first pretends he has never seen Sohrab. Only after Amir explains that he is Sohrab's half-uncle and reveals some defining details about Sohrab does Zaman let them in.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Zaman says that many of the children there are not true orphans, but this place is better than what their widowed mothers could provide for them, as the Taliban forbid women to work. The building was once a warehouse for a carpet manufacturer, and there are not enough beds or blankets for the hundreds of children. A girl had frozen to death there last winter.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Zaman takes Amir and Farid to his office and says he has bad news – Sohrab is no longer there, and it may be too late for him. He is hesitant to say more because the information he has is secret and dangerous, but Amir presses him. Zaman explains that there is a Taliban official who comes to the orphanage occasionally and pays to take a child away with him. Farid accuses Zaman of selling the children, and he attacks Zaman. He almost strangles Zaman to death until Amir points out that the children are watching.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Zaman gets up, choking, and says that the official took Sohrab a month ago. Zaman explains that he has no power against the Taliban, and the money helps him feed the children – he has already spent all his life savings on the orphanage. Amir asks how to find the official, and Zaman says he will be at the soccer game at Ghazi Stadium the next day, wearing black sunglasses. Amir and Farid leave as the children gather around Zaman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 21

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
Farid and Amir drive through Kabul on the way to Amir's old neighborhood. They pass a dead body hanging from a beam, and two beggars haggling over an artificial leg. They reach the Wazir Akbar Khan district and the houses there are in better shape. Farid says the Taliban live there now, as well as the people behind the Taliban," who are mostly foreigners.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir sees Baba's old house, and then the narrative slips into Amir's memory of him and Hassan finding a little turtle, painting its shell red, and pretending it is a monster they have tamed. The story returns to the present, as Amir stands outside the gates and looks in. There is an unfamiliar car in the driveway, and the house looks smaller than Amir remembered it. Amir finds his old bedroom window and remembers watching Ali and Hassan drive away.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Farid warns Amir that they shouldn't linger, and he says that it is best to just forget the past, as nothing has survived. But Amir says	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir is tired of trying to forget. He climbs the hill to the old pomegranate tree, and finds his old carving in the trunk: "Amir and Hassan. The Sultans of Kabul." Amir sits down and looks down over the city, remembering it as it once was. Then Farid honks and they have to leave.							
They stay in a run-down, overpriced hotel that night, and Farid asks Amir about America. Amir talks about the overabundance of food and television, and then he and Farid tell old Afghan jokes. The next day they go to Ghazi Stadium for the soccer game. The field is just cratered dirt, the players have to wear long pants, and no one in the crowd dares cheer too loudly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
At halftime, two red pickup trucks full of Taliban drive into the stadium, and they unload a blindfolded man and woman, one from each truck. They bury them both up to their chest, the woman screaming wildly. Amir wants to leave, but he feels he must watch. An old cleric recites a prayer, and Amir suddenly remembers Baba mocking his old religious teacher, and saying "God help us all if Afghanistan ever falls into their hands."	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The cleric makes a speech, explaining that they are there to carry out God's law and punish sinners. He says that adulterers throw stones at God's house, and so they must throw stones back. Then another Taliban official steps out of the truck, and Amir and Farid recognize him as the man they are looking for – he is wearing "John Lennon" sunglasses and draws cheers from the crowd.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The official throws stones at the male prisoner until his head is a tangled pulp, and then he moves on to the woman. The Taliban then throw the bodies	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker							Your Analysis
nto the back of a truck, and the soccer game resumes. Farid arranges a meeting with the official for three o'clock that same afternoon – all he has to do is tell one of the talibs that they have business to discuss.								

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 21

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



"How much more do you need to see? Let me save you the trouble: Nothing that you remember has survived. Best to forget."
 "I don't want to forget anymore," I said.

Speakers:

Related character(s):





Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 22

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

-  Betrayal
-  Redemption
-  Fathers and Children
-  Violence and Rape
-  Memory and the Past
-  Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir and Farid return to the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood and arrive at the big house where Amir is to meet the Taliban official. Farid waits in the car, and Amir thanks him for all his help. Amir goes up to the door, wishing Baba was there to help him, but he is all alone. Two armed guards come out, frisk Amir, and lead him to an upstairs room to wait. Amir grows more terrified as time passes, and he thinks maybe it was a mistake to try and redeem himself – maybe he is just a coward at heart, and should accept this.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Finally the Taliban official enters, still wearing his sunglasses, with the two guards. He sits down and Amir notices that his shirt is still stained with blood from the execution at the soccer game. He and Amir greet each other, and then he motions for one of the guards to rip off Amir's fake beard. He asks Amir if he enjoyed the show at halftime, and Amir is suddenly gripped with terror. The man says the best "show" was when he went door-to-door in Mazar-i-	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
harif, shooting Hazara families. He says it is the best feeling in the world to kill and know that you are doing God's work.							
The official asks Amir about America, but Amir only says that he is looking for Sohrab . The official says that many think that abandoning Afghanistan for America is as good as treason, and he could have Amir shot. Amir tries to think about Soraya to calm his fear. The official sends a guard away, and he returns with Sohrab , who is dressed in blue silk, with bells on his ankles and mascara lining his eyes. To Amir, he looks exactly like Hassan did at that age.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The guards turn on music and make Sohrab dance, and then the official takes Sohrab in his arms and orders the guards to leave the room. The official rubs Sohrab's stomach and asks Amir whatever happened to babu – the name Assef used to call Ali. Amir realizes with horror that the official is actually Assef, and that everything bad about his past has returned.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir says he will pay Assef for the boy, but Assef replies that he does not need money – his parents live in a beach house in Australia. He tells Amir why he joined the Taliban. He was in prison once, and got a painful kidney stone. One night a guard started kicking Assef, and the blows caused the kidney stone to pass. Assef started laughing with relief, though the man kept kicking him, and at that moment he knew God was on his side.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Assef continues that he is now on a mission to "take out the garbage" in Afghanistan – which is what he was doing by massacring Hazaras. Amir says that this is called ethnic cleansing, and Assef seems to enjoy the idea. Amir again asks for Sohrab , but he won't tell Assef what he plans to do with	1	2	3	4	5	6	

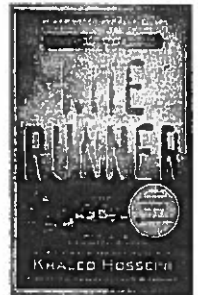
Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir. Finally Assef shoves Sohrab towards Amir, but says he cannot have him for free. Assef says he and Amir have unfinished business, and Amir remembers the day Hassan pointed the slingshot at Assef's eye and Assef promised revenge.							
Assef calls the guards and tells them not to come in, no matter they might hear, and that if Amir leaves the room alive they are to let him pass. He wants Sohrab to stay and watch, however. Then Assef puts on his old brass knuckles. After that the narrative becomes disjointed, as Amir remembers the title that follows – first the scene jumps forward to a doctor leaning over Amir's body.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir then describes the fight in flashes of wallowing teeth and blood, Assef throwing him against a wall and striking him, and Sohrab screaming. Then Amir starts laughing, as he suddenly feels at peace for the first time since his betrayal of Hassan back in 1975. He is finally getting the punishment he deserves, and he feels healed, not broken. Assef is enraged by Amir's laughter, but just before he beats Amir to death Sohrab stops him, his slingshot loaded with a part of the table and pointed at Assef's eye.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Sohrab cries and asks Assef to stop hurting Amir, and Assef warns him to put down the slingshot or terrible things will happen to him. Then Assef lunges at Sohrab, and Sohrab fires the slingshot into Assef's left eye. Assef screams and rolls around on the floor, his eye bleeding, and Sohrab and Amir run past the guards and out of the house. Amir is shocked at Amir's state, but he helps carry him to the car, and they drive off with a sobbing Sohrab.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 22

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



What was the old saying about the bad penny? My past was like that, always turning up. His name rose from the deep and I didn't want to say it, as if uttering it might conjure him. But he was already here, in the flesh, sitting less than ten feet from me, after all these years. His name escaped my lips: "Assef."

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6

Another rib snapped, this time lower. What was so funny was that, for the first time since the winter of 1975, I felt at peace. I laughed because I saw that, in some hidden nook in the corner of my mind, I'd even been looking forward to this... My body was broken – just how badly I wouldn't find out until later – but I felt *healed*.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 23

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 narrative continues with a blur of Amir's memories. Time seems out of order, and he sees a nurse named Aisha leaning over him, and a man with a moustache, and a familiar man in a <i>pakol</i> . Amir imagines Baba wrestling the black bear, but when Amir looks into his eyes he sees it isn't Baba, but Amir himself that is wrestling the bear.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir wakes up and learns that he is in a hospital in Peshawar, and the man with the moustache is named Dr. Faruqi, though Amir thinks of him as "Armand." Amir tries to speak, but discovers his mouth is wired shut. The doctor tells him he has a ruptured spleen, seven broken ribs, a fractured eye socket, and a split upper lip. He will have to eat only liquids for a few weeks. Amir thinks about the damage, but the thing that sticks with him is the lip injury – it is split down the middle like Hassan's cleft lip.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Harid and Sohrab visit Amir the next day, and Amir thanks them and properly	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Introduces himself to Sohrab, who barely speaks. Amir asks about Rahim Khan , and Farid says he disappeared the day after they did, but left Amir a note. When Farid leaves, Amir asks if Sohrab will stay. Sohrab sits with Amir, but he does not speak and only looks at his hands.							
That night Amir reads Rahim Khan's note. Rahim Khan says that he knew what happened with Amir and Hassan , and though what Amir did was wrong, he was too hard on himself afterward. He hopes Amir will find some peace on his trip to Afghanistan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Rahim Khan then says that he knows Baba was hard on Amir , but part of the reason for this was Baba's own guilt. He could not love Hassan openly as a son, and Amir represented his privileged half, so when Baba was being hard on Amir he was also being hard on himself. All of Baba's good works, including the orphanage and his many works of charity, were a way of redeeming himself for his sin. Rahim Khan says he hopes Amir can forgive both Baba and himself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
With the letter, Rahim Khan leaves Amir a key to his safe-deposit box, where there is money to cover Amir's expenses in Peshawar. He asks that Amir not come looking for him, as he has little time left to live. Amir weeps as he reads the letter, and thinks about his similarities with Baba – how they were both "tortured souls," who had betrayed their truest friend. Amir compares himself with Baba's many good works, and wonders if he has done anything to redeem himself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Next morning Amir looks at himself in the mirror, and sees all the damage to his face. Farid and Sohrab arrive, and Farid says	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
They should leave Peshawar soon, as the Taliban have friends there. Amir gives Farid the names of the American couple that Rahim Khan told him ran the Peshawar orphanage, and he leaves to find them.							
Amir spends the rest of the day playing a card game, <i>panjpar</i> , with Sohrab, who still barely speaks. Amir asks what Hassan had said about him, and Sohrab says that Hassan told him Amir was the best friend he ever had. When Amir tries to touch him, Sohrab flinches.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
For the next two days, Sohrab and Amir play <i>panjpar</i> in silence. The next day Amir decides that he must leave, and he discharges himself from the hospital early. When Farid arrives and says that there never was a Thomas and Betty Caldwell in Peshawar. Amir and Farid are worried about what they will do now, but they get Rahim Khan's money from the bank and decide to take Sohrab to Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. On the drive there Amir sleeps, and he dreams of Rahim Khan's words: "a way to be good again."	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 23

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
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- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



I loved him because he was my friend, but also because he was a good man, maybe even a great man. And this is what I want you to understand, that good, *real* good, was born out of your father's remorse. Sometimes, I think everything he did, feeding the poor on the streets, building the orphanage, giving money to friends in need, it was all his way of redeeming himself. And that, I believe, is what true redemption is, Amir jan, when guilt leads to good.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Your father, like you, was a tortured soul, Rahim Khan had written. Maybe so. We had both sinned and betrayed. But Baba had found a way to create good out of his remorse. What had I done, other than take my guilt out on the very same people I had betrayed, and then try to forget it all?

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 24

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
Amir, Farid, and Sohrab arrive in Islamabad, and Amir is impressed with its size and cleanliness – to him it looks like the city Kabul could have become someday.” They pass the Shah Faisal mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world, and Sohrab appears interested in it. They arrive at a nice hotel and Sohrab starts watching TV in silence. Farid says goodbye, and Amir gives him more than two thousand dollars and thanks him for all his help.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir takes a pain pill and falls asleep, and when he wakes up Sohrab is gone. The hotel manager is unhelpful, and implies that Amir is a bad father. Amir starts to get desperate, but then he remembers Sohrab’s fascination with the huge mosque. He finds Sohrab in the parking lot, looking at the mosque. Sohrab talks a little bit about his parents, and then Amir talks about Baba. Amir gives Sohrab the snapshot of Hassan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Sohrab starts crying softly and asks if he will go to hell for what he did to Assef. Amir	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>ys that Assef deserved it and more, and explains that Assef had hurt Hassan very badly when he was a boy. Sohrab says sometimes he is glad his parents aren't around anymore, because he doesn't want them to see him so dirty and sinful. Amir says he is not dirty or sinful, and Sohrab lets him hug him for a while. Then Amir asks if Sohrab wants to go back to America with him, but Sohrab doesn't answer.</p>							
<p>For a week afterward, neither Amir nor Sohrab mentions America, but one day they are playing cards and Sohrab asks about San Francisco. Then Amir tells him the truth about Hassan – that they were half-brothers, but neither of them knew. Sohrab guesses it is because Hassan was a Hazara, and he wonders if Baba was ashamed of him, but Amir says Baba was only ashamed of himself.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Later that day Sohrab asks about San Francisco again, and Amir describes the fog. Sohrab worries that Amir or his wife will get tired of him if he goes to America, but Amir promises that they won't. Sohrab then makes Amir promise not to send him back to an orphanage, and then Sohrab agrees to go to America. Amir calls Soraya, who has been sick with worry, and explains everything to her, including the story of his betrayal of Hassan. At the end of the story, Soraya says Amir <u>must bring Sohrab back</u> with him, and she is excited to meet him.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The next day Amir goes with Sohrab to the American embassy. They meet with a man named Raymond Andrews, who listens to Amir's story and then bluntly tells him that it will be almost impossible to adopt Sohrab. Without death certificates for his <u>parents</u>, they cannot prove that Sohrab is an <u>Iranian</u>, and usually the cooperation of the country in origin is necessary, and there is</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
to American embassy in Kabul. When Amir insists, Andrews suggests that he could talk to an immigration lawyer named Omar Faisal , but otherwise he should give up the endeavor.							
Amir asks if Andrews has any children, and Andrews says no. Amir then leaves angrily with Sohrab , and on the way out he comments about Andrews' rudeness to his secretary. She explains that Andrews' daughter recently committed suicide.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
They return to the hotel and Sohrab takes a long bath. Amir wonders when he will begin to feel cleaned of the sexual abuse. Amir calls Soraya , and she says she has a family member who can contact his colleagues at the immigration office. The next day Amir and Sohrab meet with Faisal , the lawyer. He says the adoption will be difficult, but not impossible. He says the best option is to put Sohrab in an orphanage, fill out the forms, and then wait for up to two years for the government's approval.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
That night, Amir tells Sohrab that he thinks he will be able to come to America, but first he might have to go back to an orphanage for a while. When he hears that, Sohrab screams and cries that they will hurt him here, and eventually he cries himself to sleep in Amir's arms. Then Amir himself takes a nap.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
When Amir wakes up, Sohrab is in the bath, and Soraya calls. She says that her family contact can get Sohrab a visa, and that it will be easier to adopt him once he is in America. Amir is overjoyed and goes into the bathroom to tell Sohrab , but he finds him passed out and bleeding in the bathtub, and Amir falls to his knees, screaming.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 25

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>Sohrab is taken to the emergency room, and Amir is not allowed to go in with him. Amir takes a sheet from a supply closet, asks a nurse which way is west, and uses the sheet as a prayer rug. He prays for the first time in more than fifteen years, and he recites the only words he can remember: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger."</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Amir realizes then that he does believe in a God, and he asks God to forgive him for his neglect and betrayal, and he promises to pray every day if only God will save Sohrab's life.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>After a while Amir falls asleep on the floor, and he dreams of Sohrab in the bloody bathtub and the razor he used to cut himself, the same razor Amir had shaved with that day. A doctor wakes Amir up and tells him that Sohrab is alive, but he has lost a lot of blood. Amir is overcome with joy, and he cries into the doctor's hands.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Several days pass with Amir sleeping on a hospital couch and Sohrab sleeping with a ventilator. Eventually Amir returns to his hotel to get some rest, but he can't help lingering in the bathroom and imagining Sohrab's suicide attempt. The next day Amir returns and finds Sohrab in a new room. He is awake, but under constant suicide watch. Amir asks him how he feels, but Sohrab says nothing, and his eyes look lifeless.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir reads from the story of "Rostam and Sohrab," but Sohrab shakes his head when Amir asks if he should continue. Finally Sohrab speaks, and he says that he is tired of everything, and he wants his old life back, with his parents and Rahim Khan . He says he wishes Amir had left him in the bathtub. Amir touches his shoulder and he flinches. Amir says that he had been coming to tell Sohrab that he found a way to take him to America. Amir asks if he still wants to go, but Sohrab stops speaking altogether, and the light of hope seems to have left his eyes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Eventually Amir takes Sohrab's silence as an acceptance, and a week later they arrive in America. Amir remembers a small incident years before (in America), where he "ruined" the end of a movie for another customer at the video store. He says that in Afghanistan, people only want to know how the movie ends – if the protagonist finds happiness or failure, gets married or dies. Amir says that if he was describing his own story, he would not know how to explain the end. Life is not a movie – it is complex and does not care for dramatic arcs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir returns to the narrative, as he and Sohrab arrive in San Francisco in August of 2001. Soraya picks them up at the airport, and she talks to Sohrab and shows him the	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
bedroom she has decorated for him, but he does not respond or show interest.							
That night Amir finds the photo of Hassan under Sohrab's pillow. Looking at Hassan's face, Amir realizes how Baba was torn between his two sons, and how maybe he had thought of Hassan as his true son, as he was the half that contained all of Baba's goodness. Amir realizes then that he has forgiven Baba, though it did not happen as dramatically as he expected.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The next night General Taheri and Jamila come over for dinner. While Soraya and her mother set the table, Amir tells the General about Kabul and the Taliban. General Taheri skirts the subject of Sohrab at first, but then asks Amir why there is a Hazara boy living with him now. Amir explains simply – Baba kept with his servant's wife and had a son named Hassan , who is dead now. Sohrab is Hassan's son, Amir's nephew, and Amir warns General Taheri to never call Sohrab a "Hazara boy" in his presence again.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir describes the nature of Sohrab's silence – it is not just quietness, but as if he had shut himself down or curled up deep inside himself. He seems to occupy no space, and leaves no trace when he enters or leaves a room. The silence is hard on Soraya , as she had dreamed of doing so many "parent-child" things with him, and both her and Amir's dreams of a happy family seem to wilt in Sohrab's presence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
While the family lives quietly, great movements shake America and Afghanistan. Amir describes the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the American bombing of Afghanistan that followed. The names of Afghan cities are suddenly common words on American television, and the Taliban flee into the mountains, driven	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 25

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



"Sohrab, I can't give you your old life back, I wish to God I could. But I can take you with me. That was what I was coming in the bathroom to tell you. You have a visa to go to America, to live with me and my wife. It's true. I promise."

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes:

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

If someone were to ask me today whether the story of Hassan, Sohrab, and me ends with happiness, I wouldn't know what to say. Does anybody's?

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes:

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

I looked at Hassan, showing those two missing teeth, sunlight slanting on his face. Baba's other half. The unentitled, unprivileged half. The half who had inherited what had been pure and noble in Baba. The half that, maybe, in the most secret recesses of his heart, Baba had thought of as his true son... Then I realized something: That last thought had brought no sting with it... I wondered if that

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

was how forgiveness budded, not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced in the middle of the night.

Related
Themes:



"Do you want me to run that kite for you?"
His Adam's apple rose and fell as he swallowed... I thought I saw him nod.
"For you, a thousand times over," I heard myself say.
Then I turned and ran.
It was only a smile, nothing more... A tiny thing... But I'll take it.
With open arms. Because when spring comes, it melts the snow one flake at a time, and maybe I just witnessed the first flake melting.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:



