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Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

Chapters One–Four

1. What does the narrator, Amir, recall about the moment he became “what [he is] today” (p. 2)? What do you think happened that day?
2. Who calls Amir from Pakistan? What does he tell Amir? How does Amir react?
3. Who said “For you, a thousand times over” (p. 2)? How does Amir refer to this person? Give three details about him.
4. Who is Hassan’s father? What is his physical handicap? What information does Amir give about his own and about Hassan’s mother? How do you think this has affected the lives of both boys?
5. What does Amir call his father? How does he feel about him? What causes Amir to feel jealous at times?
6. What does Baba believe is the only sin? How does he rationalize his opinion? Briefly explain why you agree or disagree with Baba.
7. Why is Amir a disappointment to his father?
8. How did Baba and Ali become acquainted? What type of relationship do they now have?
9. How are Amir’s and Hassan’s childhoods similar? How are they different? What are their ethnic backgrounds? How is Amir sometimes unkind to Hassan?
10. What does Amir carve in the bark of a pomegranate tree? What do you think this symbolizes?
11. What is Hassan’s favorite story? Why does this make him cry? How does Amir react?
12. Why is Rahim Khan important in Amir’s childhood?

Chapters Five–Seven

1. What are some of the first signs that Afghanistan is changing? How do Amir, Hassan, Ali, and Baba initially react?
2. Who are Assef, Wali, and Kamal? How does Assef treat Amir and Hassan? What ends the encounter? How do you think Assef will retaliate?
3. What is Baba’s birthday gift to Hassan? How does Hassan respond? How does Amir react? Why do you think Amir feels this way?
4. How do Amir and Hassan spend the winter months? Why is this season especially important to Amir?

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5. What is the highlight of the cold season for a boy living in Kabul? How does Baba help Amir and Hassan prepare for this event? How does Amir feel about this?
6. What individual roles do Amir and Hassan play in the kite-fighting tournament? What is the most coveted prize?
7. To what does Amir compare his fascination with teasing Hassan? What do you think this "game" reveals about both boys?
8. When do Amir and Hassan participate in their last kite-fighting tournament? Why is winning this tournament so important to Amir? How does the tournament end? Why is this the single greatest moment in Amir's 12 years?
9. What happens when Hassan runs to find the blue kite? How does Amir react? Why? What do you think Hassan would have done if the roles had been reversed?
10. How does Assef rationalize the attack on Hassan? To what does Amir compare Hassan's look as Assef is attacking him?
11. Describe Hassan and Amir's interaction after the attack.
12. How does Baba react to Amir after the tournament? How does Amir react?

Chapters Eight-Ten

1. Describe Amir's and Hassan's behavior in the week following Assef's attack.
2. Where does Amir ask his father to take him? What happens to Amir on the trip? How is Amir's expectation of the trip different from the reality?
3. How does Amir treat Hassan during the rest of the winter of 1975? What happens the first time the two boys try to reconnect after the attack? Why do you think this happens?
4. How does Amir initially try to solve his "problem" with Hassan? How does Baba react?
5. Briefly describe what happens when Amir and Hassan go to pick pomegranates.
6. Respond to the following questions about Amir's thirteenth birthday party: (a) the type of celebration, (b) his gift from Assef, (c) his gift from Rahim Khan, (d) his gifts from Baba, (e) his gift from Ali and Hassan, and (f) what he does with these gifts.
7. What does Rahim Khan reveal to Amir about his own past? Why do you think he does this?
8. How does Amir ultimately solve his "problem" with Hassan? How do Hassan, Baba, and Ali react? How does this make Amir feel?
9. What type of transportation takes Baba and Amir on the first stage of their escape from Kabul? What is their final destination?
10. What happens at the first checkpoint? How does Baba react? How does the confrontation end? What do you think Baba's reaction reveals about him?

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11. How do Baba, Amir, and the other refugees get to Peshawar, Pakistan? What happens to Kamal and his father on this phase of the journey?

Chapters Eleven–Thirteen

1. How does living in America affect Baba? What causes him to lash out at the Nguyens? Why does Baba refuse to return to Peshawar? What is Baba's job in California?
2. How old is Amir when he graduates from high school? How do he and Baba celebrate the occasion? What gift does he receive from Baba?
3. What does Amir plan to study in college? How does Baba react to Amir's decision? Why? Explain whether or not you think this is a common conflict between parent and child.
4. What business venture do Baba and Amir undertake? How does this affect Baba? Whom does Amir meet as a result of this venture?
5. What does Amir call Soraya? How do her parents react to his interest in her?
6. As a child, whom did Soraya teach to read? How does her experience with this person differ from Amir's experience with Hassan?
7. How does Baba's illness begin? What are the diagnosis and prognosis? How does Baba react? How does his reaction differ from Amir's?
8. What is Baba's last "fatherly duty"? What is the result?
9. How much does Amir and Soraya's wedding cost? Who pays for this? How does this differ from wedding customs in your family?
10. How does Soraya help Baba during the last month of his life? What does she do that causes Amir to cry?
11. What was Soraya's "mistake"? What did her father do about this? What is the primary reason Amir does not care about her past?
12. What happens to Amir in 1989? How does he react to this? Why do you think he reacts this way?
13. What is the primary concern in Amir and Soraya's marriage? How does this affect each of them?

Chapters Fourteen–Nineteen

1. Who calls Amir from Pakistan in June of 2001? Why does he call? How does Amir react?
2. What is Rahim Khan's physical condition when Amir arrives in Pakistan? How does this affect Amir?
3. Name three things Rahim says have happened in Kabul since Amir and Baba left.

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4. Briefly explain what Rahim tells Amir about: (a) where he found Hassan, (b) Hassan's family, (c) what happened to Ali, (d) Hassan's education, and (e) why Hassan decided to go to Kabul.
5. Who comes to Kabul looking for Hassan? How does he react to her arrival? Why do you think he reacts this way?
6. How is Sohrab like his father? How do you think this information affects Amir?
7. Identify three things Hassan discusses in his letter to Amir. What does Rahim reveal about Hassan and Sohrab after Amir reads this letter?
8. What does Rahim Khan ask Amir to do? What is Amir's initial response?
9. What does Rahim tell Amir about Hassan's birth? How does Amir respond? How does this affect his decision about Sohrab?
10. Who drives Amir into Afghanistan? How does he initially react to Amir? What is the most important preparation Amir makes for this journey?
11. Where do Amir and Farid spend their first night in Afghanistan? How are they treated? What does Amir do for their host?

Chapters Twenty-Two

1. Identify three changes in Kabul since Amir left 20 years before. Which change do you think Amir finds the hardest to accept?
2. What is the "Beard Patrol?" What does Farid caution Amir about?
3. How is Amir initially treated at the orphanage? How does Farid react when he finds out how Zaman is able to keep the orphanage open? What do Amir and Farid eventually learn about Sohrab?
4. Give three examples of the Taliban's cruelty in Kabul.
5. How has Amir's childhood home changed since he last saw it? By what change do you think he is most affected? Why?
6. Why is it surprising to Farid that Amir would search for Sohrab? What do you think this reveals about Farid?
7. Why do Amir and Farid go to the Ghazi Stadium? What atrocity do they witness while there?
8. What are Amir's emotions before his meeting with the Talib who allegedly has Sohrab? How does the Talib expose Amir's disguise? What does he tell Amir about the Hazara massacre?
9. Who is Sohrab's captor? How does Amir react when he discovers this?
10. What is Assef's condition for releasing Sohrab? What is the result?

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Chapters Twenty-Three–Twenty-Four

1. Who helps Amir and Sohrab escape from the Taliban compound? Where does he take them? How do you think Sohrab feels at this point?
2. List Amir's injuries. Of what does his lip injury remind him?
3. What does Rahim Khan's letter say about: (a) his knowledge of Amir's "sin," (b) why Baba treated Amir as he did, (c) forgiveness, and (d) his impending death?
4. How does Sohrab initially react to Amir? Why? How do they eventually spend most of the day while Amir is in the hospital?
5. What does Amir plan to do when he leaves the hospital? What changes his plans? Where does Farid then take Amir and Sohrab?
6. What does Sohrab do the first night they are in the hotel? Where does Amir find him? Why does he go there?
7. What does Amir give Sohrab? Why? How does Amir try to alleviate the guilt Sohrab feels?
8. What does Amir ask Sohrab to do? What is Sohrab's answer? What is his primary concern?
9. What is the main obstacle in Amir's being able to adopt Sohrab? What does Raymond Andrews advise Amir to do?
10. What does Omar Faisal advise Amir to do? How does Sohrab react when Amir tells him this? Why do you think Sohrab is so terrified?
11. What does Soraya call to tell Amir? What does Amir discover when he goes to give Sohrab the news?

Chapter Twenty-Five

1. When Amir realizes that Sohrab might die, what does he ask of God?
2. Briefly describe what Amir remembers about finding Sohrab. Give three adjectives you think depict Amir's emotions.
3. What does Dr. Nawaz tell Amir about Sohrab's condition? How does Amir react?
4. How long is Sohrab in the ICU? How does Amir spend the days after he is put into his own room? How does Sohrab initially respond? Why do you think he reacts this way?
5. What does Sohrab tell Amir he wants? How does Amir respond? What memory does this conversation trigger for Amir?
6. Why does Sohrab decide to go to San Francisco?
7. How has Soraya prepared for Sohrab's arrival? How does Sohrab respond to her?

