



Pre-AP English 10 Summer Reading Assignment -- 2009

**Required reading: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
(Published in 2003)**

Khaled Hosseini, born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965, writes an unforgettable story of the friendship of two boys, Amir and Hassan, growing up in Kabul. These boys come from different parts of society filled with different opportunities and beliefs. Their lives and fates tragically reflect the world around them. This novel is about friendship, family, betrayal, the price of loyalty, and so much more. While reading, you will be drawn into the cultural richness and beauty of a country that is still being devastated by war. Yet, there is hope simply in the telling of this story. First and foremost -- enjoy!

You must either purchase your own copy of this novel or check it out from a library. Purchasing is highly recommended so that you may highlight, color code, or make notes as you read. You will also need a 3-prong folder and 4 tabs/dividers for the **"computer" journal assignment that follows**. The novel must be read and the assignment completed over the summer. This will count as your first major grade of the year so please be ready with this on the first day of school. The computer journal will be collected at that time.

The Pre-AP English 10 team is really looking forward to working with you next year! We hope that you have a very relaxing summer and that you will return to Lake Braddock renewed and excited to begin your sophomore year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by one of our rooms. You may also email one of us over the summer.

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Computer-Journal Assignment

All work must be your own - no collaboration please -- and will be submitted to Turnitin.com during the first week of school so please save this assignment. Put your journal entries into a 3-prong folder and label or tab each entry.

All work except Journal 3 must be typed.

****Journal Entry 1 -- Mini-Research: (Complete this journal entry BEFORE reading)** Find information about the topics listed below (2-3 sources) and write up your findings in **bulleted format**. Create a Works Cited page that reflects the sources used. **Go to the following Lake Braddock Library website and follow the MLA format for writing a "Works Cited" page:**

http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/lbss_library/lbss_library_cite.htm

Be very careful to use quotes correctly and sparingly or paraphrase information into your own words. Do NOT simply cut and paste words and ideas into your paper. Attach a correctly formatted "Works Cited" page. Structure this assignment by topic. After you finish reading the book, go back and add 4-5 sentences to EACH topic that connect the research to instances encountered in the novel. Label this "Connections" which, again, you must have for EACH topic.

Research these topics:

- Author background - details that give insight about his writing style or this novel (5 facts)
- Afghanistan
 - Historical background of the country, including political history (5 facts)

- Geographical information (5 facts)
- People and Culture: Select **TWO** of the following and find 5 facts EACH)
 - Population statistics (birth rates, life expectancy, health, etc.)
 - Education (schools, facilities, literacy rate, language, etc.)
 - Religion/Traditions: (beliefs, customs, values, traditions, etc.)
 - Sports/Entertainment/Activities

****Journal Entry 2 – Themes:** Some of the major themes of this novel are: *Sin/guilt and redemption, Father and son relationships, Resilience of the human spirit, Effects of the past, Society versus the individual, and Brotherhood.* Select **ONE** of these themes as the focus for this journal entry and follow its development throughout your reading by taking notes in your book. Keep in mind that the theme can be developed through various **key ideas/literary devices** such as a twist in the **plot**, a **conflict** that results in a change, unique traits of a particular **character**, the author’s use of certain types of **imagery**, how the author manipulates **word choice**, the confusion created with multiple **flashbacks**, etc. When you have finished reading the novel, review your notes and complete this journal entry which consists of the following (format below):

- TWO different key ideas/literary devices of the novel that support the theme.
 - (*Ex: Sarcastic language used when referencing religious concepts. This supports the theme - religion harms individuality.* ****This example is completely fictitious.**)
- Explanation of **HOW** each key idea/literary device supports the theme (2-4 sentences each). See example below.
- **TWO supporting quotes** for each (total of 4 quotes). ****A good quote is one that clearly supports your point even without a lot of explanation. Choose carefully! These will be used for an essay.**
- **Context** of each quote. What’s happening around the time of quote? (1-2 sentences)
- Brief discussion (2-4 sentences) of **HOW** this quote/passage supports the literary device AND the theme.

Journal 2 Format Example

THEME: Religion harms individuality

1) **Key Big Idea/Literary Device:** Sarcastic language

HOW: 2-4 sentences explaining how sarcastic language in the novel connects to the theme.

Quote 1: “This should be a quote or passage that has sarcastic language being used from a religious figure against an individual. It must connect to the literary device AND the theme.

Context: Give the context of this specific quote (1-2 sentences)

HOW: Discuss (2-4 sentences) how the quote shows sarcasm AND shows religion harming the individual.

Quote 2: Same as above.

Context: Same as above.

HOW: Same as above.

2) Repeat for the second key idea/literary device

****Journal Entry 3 -- Conflict:** Follow **TWO** key conflicts in this novel. Look carefully at what is causing the conflicts - both internal and external issues - and what happens as a result of these conflicts. Create a visual web-type diagram for **EACH** conflict that shows the following: the specific conflict, causes (internal & external), who is involved, consequences/complications/changes that result from the conflict, lessons learned, anything else that’s relevant. This entry must be neat, can be completed in pen or colored pencils, and each diagram must be placed on a separate page.

****Journal Entry 4 – Personal Response:** In 1 - 1 ½ pages (typed DS), write a personal response to **ONE** idea that resonated with you as you read the book. Use 1-2 specific text references in your discussion. This is **NOT** a plot summary and it is **NOT** a brief commentary on several aspects of the book. So be careful to select the one idea that you can adequately discuss in detail.