The Kite Runner Writing Journal

As part of the reading of this novel, you are required to keep a journal of short writing assignments. Below are writing prompts for each chapter (2-25). There are 23 separate writing assignments. You must choose:

- 2 prompts from Part I of the novel (chapters 2-6);
- 2 prompts from Part I (chapters 7-10);
- 2 prompts from Part II (chapters 11-14);
- 4 prompts from Part III (chapters 15-25).

If your math is good, it should equal 10 out of the 23 prompts below. The due dates will be posted on the web. You can assume that when we complete the chapters listed above, the journals will be due.

Expectations: You will be assessed based upon your thinking and responding to the prompt and by your adherence to the listed FCAs and word count (200-300 words). Please be sure to give an accurate word count at the bottom of your response.

Points: Each prompt is worth 50 points. Well written, thoughtful and mechanically sound responses in the 200 word range will earn an average score (C), similar responses in the 300 range will earn an excellent score (A). Responses with words in the 325+ range will earn an (A+) and ALL TYPED responses will be given 5 extra points. Responses that do not meet the word count criteria will lose 10 points.

FCA # 1: Response clearly answers prompt with introspection and thoughtful discourse ----/20

FCA # 2: Response uses at least 2 details recalled from the novel to support writing ----/20

FCA # 3: Conclusion that reinforces, summarizes, or challenges ----/10

Format:
- Whether your paper is typed or neatly handwritten in blue or black ink (only!), please format your paper in the MLA style.
- Please give a title to each response that includes the chapter number.
- Under the title please give the proper MLA citation of the novel (yes, you will do this for each response as it is practice for the Annotated Bibliography and it is simply good practice to do so).
- Please do NOT copy these FCAs onto your paper! If you are unclear as to how an MLA paper should look, you can see a sample MLA formatted paper on the ENG IV Home Page or you can “google” the same.
- At the bottom of your response, please provide an accurate word count.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, be sure to contact me ASAP. I can’t help if I don’t know!!
Chapter 2:
“They called him ‘flat-nosed’ because of Ali and Hassan’s characteristic Hazara Mongoloid features.”

Explain the racial implications established in this chapter. How does this inform the reader about the relationship between Hassan and the narrator and between Baba and Ali?

Chapter 3:
“There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft. Do you understand that?”

Who says this to Amir in “Chapter 3”? Do you agree with this statement?

Chapter 4:
What does friendship mean to you? Would Amir say that Hassan is his friend? Would Hassan say that Amir is his friend? Do you think that Amir and Hassan are friends?

Respond to these questions and give evidence from the novel to explain your stance. (also read page 41)

Chapter 5:
Who is Assef and who is his idol? What does this tell the reader about his character?

What present does Baba give to Hassan for his birthday? Why is it ironic that Hassan stops smiling?

Chapter 6:
What does Amir decide that his mission will be in this chapter? Why does he want Baba to call him Amir jan?

Chapter 7:
Why does Amir say that he is both a hero and a coward during this chapter?

Chapter 8:
“Everywhere I turned, I saw signs of his loyalty, his goddamn unwavering loyalty”.

Who says this in “Chapter 8”? Explain this frustration and justify your stance.

Chapter 9:
What is the only gift that Amir receives for his birthday that does not feel like “blood money”? Summarize why Amir puts his new watch and a handful of money under Hassan’s mattress. What happens as a result?

Chapter 10:
How does Baba almost die in this chapter? Explain the significance of this event and what Amir learns.
Chapter 11:

“For me, America was a place to bury my memories. For Baba, a place to mourn his”.

Explain and respond to this discrepancy between Amir and Baba’s existence in America.

Chapter 12:

“I envied her. Her secret was out. Spoken. Dealt with . . . I suspected there were many ways in which Soraya Taheri was a better person than me. Courage was just one of them”.

Explain and respond to Amir’s reflection.

Chapter 13:

List some of “the bears” Baba wrestled with during his life and explain your choices.

What does Amir say is “sleeping between [he and Soraya]”? Why does he say this?

Chapter 14:

Who called Amir? What did he say to him? Why is this significant/what does it force Amir to do?

Chapter 15:

Describe what has happened to Afghanistan since Amir has left. Give specific examples.

Where and with whom has Rahim Khan been living?

Chapter 16:

Who is telling the story at the beginning of “Chapter 16”? Why is that significant?

Who returns after not seeing Hassan for years? What happens to that individual?

Chapter 17:

Why is “Chapter 17” arguably the most pivotal chapter of the novel? Summarize the new information that the reader is given in the chapter. What was your reaction to that information?

Chapter 18:

Rahim Khan asked Amir to do him a favor in “Chapter 17”. What was the favor and what does Amir decide to do? Why does he ultimately make this decision?

Chapter 19:

Paraphrase the end of this quote: “Earlier that morning, when I was certain no one was looking I did something I had done twenty-six years earlier . . . “

What does Amir do and how does it illustrate how Amir has changed over the years?
**Chapter 20:**
Who does Amir learn about in this chapter from a complete stranger? Why is this significant and what does it tell the reader about his relationship with Baba?

Why is Sohrab not at the orphanage? Where is he?

**Chapter 21:**
Amir says, “I don’t want to forget anymore”. What and why does he not want to forget anymore? Why is this significant?

What is the “half-time show” at the soccer game?

**Chapter 22:**
Who is the man that from the soccer match that Amir meets?

When Amir and the man he meets fight, what does Amir do that seems strange? Why does he do this?

**Chapter 23:**
“The bear roars, or maybe it’s Baba . . . He looks up at me and I see. I am wrestling the bear”.

Who says this quote and explain why this quote and the role reversal is significant.

**Chapter 24:**
Amir finally understands in “Chapter 24” “the way to be good again”. What is that way and what does Amir ultimately decide to do in this chapter.

**Chapter 25:**
“ I ran. A grown man running with a swarm of screaming children. But I didn’t care. I ran with the wind blowing in my face, and a smile as wide as the Valley of Panjsher on my lips. I ran”.

The novel closes with the image of Amir running. Is he running toward something or away from something? Who/what is it? Who is “the Kite Runner”? 