

**FOCUS QUESTIONS** (NOTE--some questions cover multiple chapters. These questions are an **optional** resource you can use to help your understanding of the novel. Review the questions before reading to help focus your attention, read the assigned pages, and then check your understanding by seeing if you can answer the questions. You do **not** need to write anything out.)

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does chapter one foreshadow?</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the personalities and relationships between Amir, Hassan, Baba, Ali, and Rahim Khan.</li> <li>• Who are Hazaras and how are they treated in Afghanistan?</li> </ul>
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe Amir's and Hassan's experiences with reading, storytelling, and writing.</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What political change happens in Afghanistan and how does this impact Amir and Hassan?</li> <li>• Who is Assef and why is he a problem for Amir and Hassan?</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the significance and symbolism of the kite-fighting tournament? What is kite running?</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways does Hassan help Amir on the day of the tournament?</li> <li>• How is the day of the tournament a defining moment for Amir? How are the italicized sections near the end of chapter 7 significant?</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does Amir and Hassan's relationship change? How does Amir and Baba's relationship change?</li> <li>• What is difficult for Amir at his birthday party?</li> <li>• How does Rahim Khan's story about Homaira impact Amir?</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does Amir do to try to get a "clean slate"? What surprises him?</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Kabul's environment like in 1981 and what does it prompt Baba and Amir to do?</li> <li>• How is Baba a hero again?</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how Baba feels about living in America? How is Amir's experience?</li> <li>• Who is Soraya Taheri and what is her significance?</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the "rules" of courtship and what do they reveal about Afghan cultural values?</li> <li>• How does Baba handle his illness? How does Amir cope?</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happens with the Taheri family?</li> <li>• What does Amir realize when Baba dies?</li> <li>• During the early years of his marriage, what does Amir learn about Soraya and her family?</li> <li>• What challenge do Amir and Soraya eventually face in their marriage?</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does Amir end up responding to Rahim Khan's call? What does Amir realize about what Rahim Khan knows?</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened in Afghanistan under Northern Alliance control? What happened when the Taliban took over?</li> </ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did Rahim Khan seek out Hassan? What did he find?</li> <li>• What happens to Hassan when he returns to Baba's old house? Who were the two new significant people in his life?</li> </ul>
17-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does Amir learn from Hassan's letter?</li> <li>• What does Amir learn from Rahim Khan about Baba? What does Amir decide to do with this knowledge?</li> </ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is Farid? What does he initially think of Amir? What changes his mind?</li> </ul>
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Amir returns to Kabul, what valuable information does he get from a beggar?</li> <li>• What does Amir discover at the orphanage?</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happens at Ghazi Stadium?</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the man with the John Lennon glasses? What happens during Amir's meeting with them?</li> <li>• Why does Amir laugh in the midst of great violence?</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happens when Amir is back in Peshawar?</li> <li>• How does Rahim Khan explain the way Baba treated Amir during Amir's childhood?</li> <li>• What does Rahim Khan say about "true redemption"?</li> <li>• What did Hassan tell Sohrab about Amir?</li> <li>• Who were Thomas and Betty Caldwell? What news does Farid bring about them?</li> </ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What scare does Amir have in Islamabad?</li> <li>• What does Sohrab worry about? Why is he sometimes glad that his loved ones are gone?</li> <li>• Why is Sohrab scared about going to the US with Amir? What does Amir promise Sohrab?</li> <li>• What happens when Amir and Sohrab go to the US Embassy? What does the lawyer, Omar Faisal, explain?</li> <li>• What good news does Soraya have?</li> <li>• Why was Amir screaming?</li> </ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does Amir do in the hospital when he's waiting to see what happens with Sohrab?</li> <li>• How does Sohrab and Amir's relationship change?</li> <li>• How is Sohrab's transition to America?</li> <li>• How do Khala Jamila and the general react to Sohrab? How does Amir manage their reactions?</li> <li>• How does Amir describe Sohrab's silence? How do Amir and Soraya cope with the silence?</li> <li>• What is the "small, wondrous thing" that happens?</li> </ul>