

## ***The Kite Runner* Summative Assessment: The Lens and Artifact Essay**

**Purpose:** to assess your ability to show how literary elements and writing techniques reveal an author's purpose and theme.



*What is a Lens and Artifact Essay?*

"Everyone's a critic," or so the saying goes. When it comes to writing a critical lens (or in this case, the lens and artifact) essay, it's true that you get the chance to view wisdom and literature through a critical lens. Like the lenses in a pair of glasses, or the lens of a camera, the quote (or lens) brings what we are looking at into focus ... gives us a way to interpret, analyze, and think about the text.

**Task:** You will show your understanding of a quote as a magnifying lens to illuminate your analysis of *The Kite Runner* in order to answer the Inquiry Question: *What makes an "Educated Person"?*

**The Lens:** These are the quotes from which you will select your lens (pick one).

You should keep in mind your predicted answer to the Inquiry Question and how the lens will illuminate *The Kite Runner* as an answer to that question. What is an "educated" person and does Amir reach that at the end of the novel? How does the lens (your selected quote) show how Amir reaches that in *The Kite Runner*? How do you explain Amir's education in the terms placed by the lens you selected?

1. "In a dark time, the eye begins to see..." – *Theodore Roethke*
2. "We are our choices." — *Jean-Paul Sartre*

**The Artifact:** *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. You will want to keep those Dialectical Journals handy. You have probably selected many quotes that will help support your analysis of *The Kite Runner* as an answer to the Inquiry Question. Those of you who wrote well-developed responses have already done most of the work.

## Organization:

1. You first begin, of course, with the Lens (the quote). State it. Paraphrase it. Explain it clearly without going into the Artifact (*The Kite Runner*) yet. Explain how this lens begins to answer the Inquiry Question.
2. After briefly summarizing *The Kite Runner* (1 sentence MAX!), you now begin to use the Artifact to show HOW this lens answers the Inquiry Question. Your body paragraphs (*multiple*, it's time to outgrow the middle school formula of the 5-paragraph essay) should explain how your Lens illuminates the Artifact by answering the question: What makes an "Educated Person"? Since this novel follows the journey of the protagonist (both literally and figuratively) from a dark beginning to an enlightened end, you may want to consider evidence in a chronological order. This will make your analysis more logical as Amir's journey to Afghanistan and redemption helps him to become an "educated person".
3. Your conclusion does much more than restate your thesis (your original answer to the Inquiry Question from your introduction). You should now look to broader possible answers to the Inquiry Question. Now that you have analyzed and explained Amir's development in *The Kite Runner*, how does your understanding of your answer to Inquiry Question apply to society? How does your analysis bring you to a deeper understanding of human nature? What is YOUR big "aha!" moment?

## Requirements:

- Proper MLA formatting (font, size, heading, header, margins, posted word count, etc.)
- 500-750 words (be sure to post word count on last page)
- Posted to *www.turnitin.com* by 11:59pm on Wednesday, October 28, 2015
- ZERO EXCUSES ACCEPTED.

We will work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to complete this assignment. I highly suggest that you do not wait until then to start on this assignment. The due date is non-negotiable.