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**Summer Reading Study Guide:**

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***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

Welcome to Honors English 10! I am looking forward to meeting you in August!

The Summer Reading program, sponsored by the English Department at Padua Franciscan High School, is designed to entice students to read and recognize notable contemporary literature. We wish to engage student interest, encourage critical thinking, and challenge our students as readers. As such, some titles on the list may contain sensitive material and deal with more mature themes than some students may have encountered previously. The target audience of all the selected literature is young adults; moreover, the title selections for the Honors English courses are chosen in accordance with the AP program. Students are encouraged to find more information about all of the novels through the local library or through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Additionally, the English Department strongly encourages students and parents/guardians to discuss the content, themes, and overall inherent literary value of the selected novels. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Meghan Schepis

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**Note: In addition to your novel selection for the Bruins Big Read community day, as honors students, you are also expected to read and analyze *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.**

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions in your own words. Your answers should go beyond mere summary; I am looking for you to *prove* your answers with support from the novel, as well. Thus, your responses should represent thorough explication of the question itself **AND** be accompanied by **at least one direct quotation**, properly cited, as evidence of your response. Be sure to cite that support according to MLA format!

**Scoring:** Summer Reading questions will be taken for approximately 40 points at the beginning of the school year. As such, I expect these questions to be both neat and professional when you turn them in. Therefore, please type (double-space!) your answers and set up your paper according to MLA formatting rules. You are not required to type out the questions for inclusion in your paper, but if that helps you, you are more than welcome to.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [mschepis@paduafranciscan.com](mailto:mschepis@paduafranciscan.com). Good luck!

1. We begin to understand early in the novel that that Amir is constantly vying for Baba's attention. Discuss Amir's relationship with Baba. What causes dissension in Baba's home?
2. The strong underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Discuss their friendship. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan's true friend? Why does Amir constantly test Hassan's loyalty? Why does he resent Hassan?
3. Comment on the failed confession, dreams, car sickness, and dread that indicate subconscious stress on Amir.
4. When Baba and Amir move to the United States their relationship changes and Amir begins to view his father as a more complex man. Discuss the changes in their relationship. Do you see the changes in Baba as tragic or positive?
5. Describe Amir's response to Rahim Khan's disclosure about Hassan's conception and birth. Explain how the family connections account for Baba's building of an orphanage and his birthday gifts to Hassan.
6. List aspects of Amir's atonement and prayers for Sohrab's safety that indicate a profound change of heart.
7. Discuss how Amir reevaluates his relationship with Baba and what Amir realizes about Rahim Khan's long-term friendship.
8. Using incidents from the book, comment on gradual changes in Soraya. Discuss how she copes with childlessness and why Amir's confession over the phone convinces her to receive Sohrab as a son.
9. Characterize the moral integrity and influence of Rahim Khan. Summarize the personal traits that strengthen his relationships with Baba and Amir.
10. Explain the significance of the title *The Kite Runner*, particularly as it applies to Hassan's loyal service to Amir and Amir's play with Sohrab.