*A Thousand Splendid Suns* Guided Notes Ch. 13-24:

**Characters :how are they characterized in the story/Archetypes:**

* Mariam
* Jalil
* Nana
* Mullah Faizulla
* Rasheed
* Fariba and Hakim
* Laila
* Tariq
* Laila’s brothers

Themes/Motifs to annotate for:

* Man’s Inhumanity to man
* Patriarchal systems
* Spousal abuse
* Resistance to victimization
* Power of education/women
* Corrupting influence of absolute power
* Sin and Atonement
* Love

1. Why does Rasheed want a boy? How might life have been different for the family if Mariam could have had a baby?

2. Why does Rasheed become abusive?

3. What were Laila’s parents’s like when they were young? How have they changed? How does it affect Laila?

4. What is Laila’s relationship like with her father? What is her relationship with her mother?

5. Why does Laila feel such a strong attachment to her father?

6. How does Tariq deal with his disability? What does this suggest about his character?

7. How is Laila’s family affected by the deaths of their two sons? Why were the son’s fighting?

8. What is the role of religion in this point of the novel? How does it offer consolation to the people?

9. Why does Laila’s father take her to see the two Buddha’s at Bamiya? Why are they destroyed?

10. Why does Laila’s father stay with his wife? How are the mother’s and father’s dreams different and why?

11. On their outing Laila’s father relaxes reading *Old Man in the Sea.* Why does the novel resonate with her father?

12. In what ways is Laila like her mother, and in what ways is she like her father?

13. How does the relationship of Laila and Tariq change?