*Kite Runner* Guided Notes Ch. 1-6:

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

1. Amir
2. Hassan
3. Baba
4. Ali
5. Rahim Kahn
6. Assef
7. Farid
8. Sanaubar

**Themes/Motifs to annotate for:**

* guilt & redemption
* father and son relationship
* bullying,
* role of books/literacy
* Friendship
* man’s inhumanity to man
* coming of age
* discrimination/ class structure

**Chapter 1-6 questions**

1. The novel begins with a flashback. What do you think is its purpose? What do you learn about the narrator?

2. Who is Hassan? Describe him physically. What cleft lip? Describe him by his relationships. What was his first word? Why is that important? How did he come into Amir’s life? What contrast is made between Amir and Hassan?

3. What does it mean to be *Hazara,* Shi’a Muslim, Afghanistan’s minority group? Who in the story so far is classified as *Hazara.*

4. What does it mean to be *Pashtun,* Sunni Muslim, Afghanistan’s majority group? Who in the story so far is classified as *Pashtun*

5. How does Amir describe his home? Why do you think he elaborates this description so much? What do the details of the family pictures in Amir’s house reveal?

6. Who is Sanaubar? How is she contrasted with Amir’s mother?

7. Who is Ali? What do the neighborhood children call him? What does it mean? Why do they call him this?

8. Describe Amir’s relationship and feelings to his father in these chapters.

9. Who is the King’s cousin? What did he do and why?

10. Who is Baba? Describe him. What are his values? How does he relate to extremely religious leaders?

11. What does Baba give Hassan for his birthday? What does his present suggest about his character? How does Amir react to this present? Why did the present turn out to be ironic?

12. Who is Assef what is his ancestry? What is he famous for? What is his political vision? Who are Wali and Kamal?

14. What happens between Assef/ Wali/Kamal and Amir and Hassan? What does Assef threaten (forshadow)?

15. Hassan has plastic surgery to be able to smile normally by the following winter. Why does Amir think that is ironic?

16. What does Amir want to tell Assef about Hassan when Assef bullies them about being friends?

17. Why do boys in Afghanistan during the winter of 1975 have gashes on their fingers? What is tar?

18. In chapter 6 how does Amir feel about Hassan (conflicting feelings)? What does he mean by “my life as a ghost”(p.56)?