*Kite Runner* Guided Notes Ch. 7-12:

**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
9. Karim
10. Soraya
11. General Taheri
12. Khanum Taheri

**Themes/Motifs to annotate for:**

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

**Chapter 6-13 questions**

1. What the proudest moment of twelve year-old Amir’s life is as described in Chapter 7. What was this?
2. What happens to Hassan when he runs the blue kite for Amir? (Assef foreshadowed this in Chapter 5).
3. Who says, “I opened my mouth and almost said something…The rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had.” What those words important? What do you think of Amir’s behavior?
4. What is the significance of the two memories and dreams presented on pages 73-74?
5. Where does the family take a trip to in Chapter 8?
6. What does Amir ask of Baba that makes him angry? What does Baba say in response?
7. What is inscribed on the pomegranate tree in the back yard? So, why then is it significant that Amir tries to pick a fight with Hassan in front of that tree? What ends up happening why is it symbolic?
8. What does Assef give Amir for his birthday? Why is this significant?
9. What does Amir placed under Hassan’s mattress? Why does he do it? When Baba confronts Hassan about it how does Hassan react? How does Baba react?
10. What happens to Hassan and Ali? How is this the turning point in the novel?
11. What “weakness” of Amir;s does Baba have to apologize for in Chapter 10.
12. Why are Amir and his father leaving Afghanistan? On the journey why do the challenge the Russian Officer, who is under the influence of narcotics?
13. Chapter 10 has several ironic or foreshadowing moments happen label as such:
	1. How does Amir do to survive in the fume-filled tank
	2. Baba gathering dirt from the homeland
	3. Kamal’s fathers suicide after his son’s death
	4. Kamal one of the attackers of Hassan has quit speaking

14. “America was different. America was a river roaring along, unmindful of the past. I could wade into this river, let my sins drown to the bottom, let the waters carry me someplace far.” What does this quote reveal? What does this metaphor mean?

15. What does Baba give Amir as a graduation present? Why is this important towards their relationship?

16. What are Baba and Amir doing in San Jose on the weekends?

17. What does Amir tell his father he wants to study in college? What is Baba’s reaction?

18. Baba observes that “It may be unfair, but what happens in a single day can change the course of a whole lifetime.” Whom is he speaking about? Why? What else might be significant about this quote?

19. Baba goes to the pulmonologist, what difficulties did they face here, what was he ultimately diagnosed with? How does he decide to treat this?

20. Why does Amir ask Baba to meet with General Taheri?