**Seminar Notes**

**Khaled Hosseini: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* OR *The Kite Runner***

**Character Development:**

Discuss characters that undergo significant changes over the course of the novel.

Amir, Baba, Soraya Mariam, Laila, Jalil, Fariba

What prompts the character’s change?

What is the nature of the change? (How does s/he change? Is the change

positive/negative?)

What are the short-term (immediate) or long-term effects of that change?

Discuss characters that experience no real change at all.

Assef, Hassan, Rahim Khan Rasheed, Hakim, Nana

In what ways does the character remain consistent?

What is the significance of the character’s static condition (lack of change)?

**Motifs**

Sin and atonement

Amir, Baba, Sanaubar Jalil, Laila, Mariam

Consider the nature of the sins committed in the novel.

Does the sinner attempt to atone for his/her sins?

Is this atonement adequate?

Sacrificial victims

Hassan , Sohrab Mariam, Aziza

What characters are sacrificed in the novel?

For what cause is the sacrifice required?

**Conflicts**

Parent/child: Baba/Amir; Sanaubar/Hassan Nana/Mariam; Fariba/Laila; Tariq/Zalmai

Husband/wife: Ali/Sanaubar; Taheris; Amir/Soraya Hakim/Fariba; Rasheed/both wives

Political: Soviets/Mujahideen/Taliban/U.S.

Cultural: Hazara/Pashtun Men/Women

Internal/personal: Amir, Baba, Soraya, Sohrab Mariam, Laila

**Setting**

What is the role of the setting in the novel? War/violence in Afghanistan

At which points in the novel do you experience the sharpest contrasts between your own

cultural values and the values of the characters or the society in which they live?

Role of religion

Discuss contrasting views of the same religion presented in the novel. Taliban’s interpretation of Islam vs. specific other characters

**Structure**

How does Hosseini structure the novel? How is the structure of the novel significant to its plot or themes?

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**Character Development:**

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**Motifs**

Sin and atonement

Sacrificial victims

**Conflicts**

Parent/child

Husband/wife

Social/political

Cultural

Internal/personal

**Setting**

The role of the setting in the novel?

Your culture vs the novel’s

Role of religion

**Structure**

How does Hosseini structure the novel? How is the structure of the novel significant to its plot or themes?

10th Grade Novel Seminar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Novel you read: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rate it 1-5: \_\_\_\_

Explain your rating: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Point Breakdown:

30 points: 3 effective contributions to group discussion (10 points each)

20 points: Completed exit slip (this paper)

Total Possible: 50 formal points

Effective contribution consists of:

* Fresh and factually accurate comments/responses. No simple “I agree” or “I disagree” responses! You must provide new evidence to support your agreement/disagreement, a new question to guide others, and/or a counter-argument.
* The discussion point must be on target—meaning it applies to the topic under discussion at the time.

Exit Slip (Be specific in your evaluative responses):

I earned the grade of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for this seminar because: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Contribution 1 from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

His/her comment or point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Evaluate the effectiveness of this point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Contribution 2 from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

His/her comment or point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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