

Approved for use in

**Summary of the Work:**

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country (Afghanistan) that is in the process of being destroyed (1970s-2001). It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.

**Rationale:**

*The Kite Runner* is especially pertinent for seniors for many reasons. For one, it is a beautiful example of historical fiction that deals with events that are contemporary. Now, it is even more relevant because they just lived through the end of the war in Afghanistan that is just starting in *The Kite Runner*. Also, there are many different types of relationships that are universal and will be ripe for conversation: child/parent, husband/wife, student/teacher, In-law dynamics. Hosseini's whole point in writing *The Kite Runner*, his first novel, was to take a foreign country, and write its story through universally recognizable situations for a western audience. This novel addresses literary terms such as cliché, third/first person perspective, metaphor, symbolism, allusion and more.

**Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:**

"In "The Kite Runner," Khaled Hosseini gives us a vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence -- forces that continue to threaten them even today." -The New York Times

"The racial and religious extremism in the novel's certainly upsetting; the violence is horrifying. But the characters in *The Kite Runner* are beautifully realized, and their story's unforgettable." -Common Sense Media

**Noted Distinction:**

[Borders Original Voices Award for Fiction \(2003\)](#)  
[Hugo's Gouden Bladwijzer \(2008\)](#)  
[Exclusive Books Boeke Prize \(2004\)](#)  
[ALA Alex Award \(2004\)](#)  
[Puddly Award for Fiction \(2006\)](#)  
[Lincoln Award Nominee \(2006\)](#)  
[Prix des libraires du Québec for Lauréats hors Québec \(2006\)](#)  
[LovelyBooks Leserpreis Nominee for Allgemeine Literatur \(2009\)](#)

**Readability**

- Lexile Score: 840L

**Learning Resources Guidelines**

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

**Standard Alignment:**

<https://www.centerforlearning.org/pdf/standards/the-kite-runner-common-core-standards-8394.pdf>

**Notes on the Text:**

This book was expressly written by an Afghanistan author for a western audience. His use of cliché and imagery creates a universal world that makes his story familiar to students who have never visited or are familiar with a Middle Eastern culture. This book serves as a wonderful conduit to the timely non-fiction material written about Afghanistan and the United States' withdrawal from the country after a thirty-year presence. (See [Additional Connections](#).)

**Connection to the Curriculum:**

Reading *The Kite Runner* could help high school students make sense of the headlines and video clips they see on the news. It could inspire appreciation for the stability and security we enjoy as Americans. Most of all, students could learn from Amir's faults and vow not to repeat his mistakes.

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

For more connections, refer to standard alignment above.

**Additional Connections:**

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*

Connections reviews how the book fulfills a curricular objective or how it provides insight for the students related to curriculum.