

Name _____
Score _____

THE KITE RUNNER

CHAPTERS SIX-EIGHT ACTIVITY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Directions: Read Chapters Six-Eight and answer the questions below in complete sentences.

KNOWLEDGE

1. In Chapter Six what event happens in winter that helps the “chill” between Baba and Amir “thaw a little”?
2. In Chapter Eight what book does Assef give Amir for his birthday?
3. Briefly describe the kite flying competition and the act of kite running:



4. Who are the three boys in the alley that trap Hassan?

APPLICATION

5. What is the first word of Chapter Six? _____ What is the significance of the one word punctuated with a period (relate back to Chapter One)?
6. What does Amir like about winter? List key phrases.
7. What does Hassan do that demonstrates that he is a phenomenal kite runner?

8. After the tragic incident in the alley, how has Hassan changed (Chapter Eight)?

9. How does Amir react to Hassan's different behavior? List four specific examples.

1. _____

2. _____

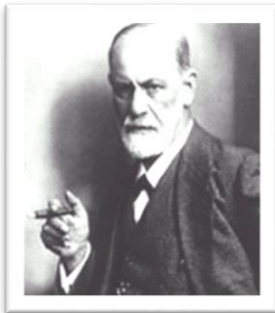
3. _____

4. _____

10. At the end of Chapter Eight, Amir witnesses a disturbing scene. Describe the scene and explain why it is disturbing.

ANALYSIS/SYNTHESIS

PSYCHOLOGY AND DREAMS



Sigmund Freud and Defense Mechanisms: Freud used three psychic zones describe the components of human personality: id, the ego, and the superego. The **id**, the pleasure principle, is the part of the personality that wants instant gratification without the consequences. The **superego** is known as the morality principle. The superego is the human conscience. The **ego** is the reality principle that maintains a balance between the id and superego. The ego is that conscious part that acts as mediator between the instinctual drives of the unconscious id and the social environment.

According to Freud, the ego has developed defense mechanisms, to cover for the wild demands of the id, which would rarely be socially acceptable. One of the defense mechanisms is referred to as Denial. *Denial* is defined as "having a conscious awareness at some level, but denies the reality of the experience by pretending it is not

there."

11. Hassan has a dream which is mentioned in Chapters Seven and Eight. Describe Hassan's dream. Based on what you know about Sigmund Freud's dream theory, why do you think Hassan has this dream? What conclusion does Amir come to about his role in the dream?

The word *character* derives from the Greek verb *charassein*, meaning to mark with a cut. **Characterization** is the method used by an author to develop a character. When an author introduces the reader to the characters within the work, he or she has two choices: to use direct and indirect characterization.

PSYCHOLOGY AND CHARACTERIZATION

Another of Freud's Defense Mechanisms is Displacement. Displacement is defined as "reassignment of some kind of aggression to a scapegoat to relieve the tension of a situation or feeling."

12. What is significant about the Amir's statement, "He was so goddamn pure, you always felt like a phony around him"? Use Sigmund Freud's theory of displacement to answer the question.

Symbolism (Greek, 'to throw together') - symbols-like metaphors, similes, personification, and allusions-are a type of figurative language. Symbols must be something material or visible such as colors, objects, animals, people, and places, while the idea it symbolizes must be something abstract or universal.

CHARACTERIZATION AND SYMBOLISM

13. On page 76 what does the sheep symbolize in Chapter Seven? Why does Amir recall the sheep's slaughter during Hassan's assault?

UNIVERSAL THEME

14. On page 67 Hassan tells Amir, "For you a thousand times over"? What is the context of this statement? At the end of this paragraph, there is the statement about this comment. Explain how this statement demonstrates foreshadowing.

READER-RESPONSE/PERSONAL CONNECTION

Directions: Read the response questions below, choose one, and write one paragraph in the space provided.

- Why doesn't Amir tell anybody about what happened to Hassan in the alley?
- Why does Amir want Hassan to hit him back with the pomegranate?
- Why do you think Amir cries at the end of Chapter Seven when his father hugs him?
- What is the difference between a memory and a dream?

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing 15 horizontal lines for writing a paragraph response.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM/SUBJECT CONNECTION (Suggestion for further study)

Geography Research the climate in Afghanistan. Include details such as snow and rain fall, seasons, and average temperatures

Culture/History Research the history behind the kite flying tournaments and the invention of kites