

**AP Literature and Composition**  
Summer Reading Assignment  
2018-2019

**“The Kite Runner: Synopsis”**

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 that is in the process of being destroyed. 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.

**Assignment**

Read and annotate *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (ISBN 9781594631931). Be prepared to take a test on the novel and discuss themes, as well. This will be the first text we discuss in class. On the second or third day of the course, you will take a test on the novel, as well as write an essay on a topic determined by the teacher. You will be allowed to use your book when you take this test and write the essay. Therefore, writing 2-3 annotations per page and/or making bullet-point summaries at the end of each chapter is highly recommended.

Additionally, please join the AP Literature and Composition Spring 2019 Google Classroom using your PPSB Student email and the classroom code: fn2otf8.

Please contact me at [amclellan@ppsb.org](mailto:amclellan@ppsb.org) with any questions.

**From the College Board on Literature**

In an ongoing effort to recognize the widening cultural horizons of literary works written in English, the AP English Literature Development committee will include diverse authors in the representative reading lists. Issues that might, from a specific cultural viewpoint, be considered controversial, including references to real-world cultural issues, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender or class, adult situations, are often represented artistically in works of literature. The Development Committee is committed to careful review of such potentially controversial material. Still, recognizing the universal value of literary art that probes difficult and harsh life experiences and so deepens understanding, the committee emphasizes the fair representation of issues and people may occasionally include controversial material.

Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in college-level work, the AP English Literature and Composition Exam depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (and beyond) who have engaged in thoughtful analysis of difficult literary texts. The best response to a controversial detail or idea in a literary work might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose or overall effect of the detail or idea in context. AP students should have the maturity, the skill, and the will to seek the larger meaning through thoughtful consideration of many different viewpoints. Such thoughtfulness is both fair and owed to the art and the author.

You are never asked to adopt a specific viewpoint as your own, but only to consider the author's view point from a literary and historical perspective, and to consider the larger cultural reasons the author may have included such material in his or her work. Each selection was carefully made because it has appeared or is likely to appear on the AP Literature and Composition examination. Controversial selections have been included not to shock or offend the reader, but because works have traditionally been viewed as having substantial literary merit.