

Source: [Westminster College](#)

### Question 1

In the first chapter of the book, Amir reflects, "I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek." Later in Chapter 22, Amir, in his attempt to free Sohrab, begins to laugh as Assef brutally pummels him with brass knuckles. "WHAT'S SO FUNNY?" Assef bellowed. Another rib snapped, this time left lower. What was so funny was that, for the first time since the winter of 1975, I felt at peace. I laughed because I saw that, in some hidden nook in a corner of my mind, I'd even been looking forward to this. I hadn't been happy and I hadn't felt better, not at all. But I did now. My body was broken - just how badly I wouldn't find out until later - but I felt *healed*. Healed at last. I laughed."

Assef's brutality towards Hassan in the alleyway, and later to Hassan's son, Sohrab, and Amir in Wazir Akbar Khan were life changing events for Amir. How did these instances alter Amir's life and views of himself?

### Question 2

Guilt, shame and redemption are always at or close to the surface in The Kite Runner. How do these forces shape the lives of Baba, Amir, Hassan and Soraya? How does ethnicity and religion factor in the central role these elements play in this novel?

### Question 3

Baba and Amir have a rich and complicated relationship that changes dramatically over the course of the novel. Discuss their relationship. How is it healthy? How is it dysfunctional? How and why does it change over time? Do you find it a realistic portrayal of a father and son? Toward the end of the book, Amir comes to a different understanding of his father and remarks, "As it turns out, Baba and I were more alike than I'd ever known." Do you think that Baba and Amir are really alike? Explain.