



P R E F A C E :

THE CAL POLY SHARED READING PROGRAM

Reading Guide

"...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*

*As you read *The Kite Runner*, consider these questions in preparation for your lively discussion of the book (as part of WOW) on September 14, 2005.*

1. Prior to reading *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, how knowledgeable were you about kite fighting? What do you think of the sport now that you have read the novel?
2. How does kite flying serve as a metaphor in the novel? How might it relate to concepts of freedom, relationships, disabilities, equality, and competition?
3. How are the actions of Amir similar to actions you may have taken in your own life? Are Amir's actions human and present in all of our lives? How so or how not?
4. How does the novel help you understand the complex history and contemporary cultural and political turmoil in Afghanistan?
5. Political, social, and economic oppression are evident in the history of both Afghanistan and America. What events, actions, or changes do you believe necessary to improve the human condition in either country?
6. Is the ending a happy ending in the traditional sense? What issues are resolved for the characters? What issues remain to challenge the characters?
7. The Kite Runner opens with a description of kite flying in Kabul in 1975 and ends with Amir and his nephew flying a kite in the Bay area nearly 30 years later. Why would an author open and end his novel with parallel scenes like this?
8. Why does the author call the book fiction when so many of the stories seem autobiographical? What is the relationship between facts and truths? How can there be a "story truth" and a "literal truth?"