

Dear Incoming Modern Literature Students and Their Parents/Guardians:

In order to promote literacy and learning during the relaxing summer months, we, the faculty at District 117, ask that each student reads a book assigned by the English Department. Reading is the key to all academic success; therefore, the reading of this book will help prepare all students for their senior year in all subjects.

The book selected for incoming Modern Literature students is *Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. The English Department selected this novel because it is a contemporary, cultural fiction piece. We believe the students will find this book a captivating and informative read. The book belongs to the student. Students, please write your name in the front cover. You will be responsible for having read this material when you start Modern Literature in the fall.

- As you read *Kite Runner*, **annotate the book** to show the emergence and growth of Amir's conscience as he deals with his guilt from his childhood, through his teen years, through his young adulthood, and finally in his adulthood. *How does his guilt change the person he becomes?* Underline or **highlight** passages that relate to this inner journey. Mark specific pages where evidence of these changes is the strongest. Finally, write in the margins specific reactions to or comments on this evidence. **Your book will be checked** for these annotations when you come to class on the first day.

After you finish reading and annotating the book, complete the following:

- Write a **3-4 page paper** that describes and explains the evolution of Amir's conscience as you traced it in the book. Your thesis should answer this question: ***How do Amir's guilt and his handling of it change the person he ultimately becomes?*** Your paper should then show examples that prove your answer to this question. You should have:
 - ✓ a clear introduction that states your thesis and sets up your topic
 - ✓ 2 quotes from the book per stage in Amir's development (childhood, teen, young adult, and adult).
 - ✓ well-developed paragraphs that thoroughly explore the issue and use the above quotes correctly to make your point.
 - ✓ a conclusion that properly wraps up the paper and restates the thesis.

Your paper should follow **MLA** guidelines. It should have a **proper heading, header, and title page**, and should be **typed and double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman** font. You should also have a **Work Cited** page in correct MLA format, and **cite your novel properly in text**. ***An acceptable paper must fulfill all of the listed requirements.***

Your paper is due when you come to class on the first day. The Modern Literature teachers will begin discussing this book on the first day of class, so students must complete the reading, annotations, and paper assignment before the start of school and bring it on the first day of class.

We encourage parents and guardians to read along with their students and engage in discussion. Thank you for completing summer work and advancing your education. If you have any questions, please contact John Whitehurst at jwhitehurst@sequoits.com at ACHS or jhellen@lake eagles.com at LCHS or visit our school website. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

District 117 Modern Literature Teachers