

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.

1. 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.
2. Make a **journey map poster** that describes and explains the evolution of Amir's conscience as you traced it in the book. Your poster should answer this question: ***How do Amir's guilt and his handling of it change the person he ultimately becomes?*** Your poster should then show examples, through images and quotes, which prove your answer to this question. You should have:
 - ✓ a map designed on a large, easy to see poster board. The map should be neat and attractive, as well as easy to understand.
 - ✓ a title that expresses the map's main idea and theme and connects the parts of the map.
 - ✓ visual images and graphics that reflect the book as a whole and not just part of it. The visual images should provide a progressive journey that shows how Amir's guilt and his handling of it affected him as a child, a teen, a young adult, and an adult. They should also be connected together in an obviously cohesive way (see example below).
 - ✓ 2 quotes from the book per stage of in Amir's development (childhood, teen, young adult, and adult), which go along with the visual images above to illustrate the progression of Amir's guilt. The quotes should relate both to the question above, and to your images.
 - ✓ a one-page explanation of your map, including why you chose its theme and how it responds to the question.

Some helpful hints:

- If you don't draw well, use shapes and colors to express your ideas.
- Use color to represent relationships between ideas. If you do this, include a color key on the front or back.
- Use alternative shapes or designs for your map to make it more interesting.
- Remember that a map is not just a picture of a character or setting; it is an expression of an insight into the book.

An example: Say I decided I was going to answer this question. I would pick the title: "Amir's Guilty Game of Chance" for my poster, and then use a casino theme for all my images. I might use a green posterboard as a background, and use a different playing card or suit for my major stops along the way. Perhaps, if the idea I was expressing was negative, I might use spades to indicate that. If the idea was romantic, I might use hearts; if it was violent, clubs. I would print the appropriate quotes on images that looked like fake money. These are the kinds of things you could do on such a project: ***however, you cannot use this idea, since it is the example!***

Your journey map poster is due when you come to class on the first day. We will be sharing them in class on subsequent days. The Modern Literature teachers will begin discussing this book on the first day of class, so students must complete the reading, annotations, and poster 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 visit our school website. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Antioch Community High School Modern Literature Teachers