

The Kite Runner

Chapters 1–6

by Khaled Hosseini

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: aloofness, coveted, impeccable, ingrained, obstinate, trepidation, unatoned, unscrupulous, vehemently, wretched

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–6 · Amir and Hassan's boyhood in Kabul

Section 2 · Chapters 7–9 · The day of the kite tournament

Section 3 · Chapters 10–13 · Amir and Baba flee Afghanistan

Section 4 · Chapters 14–19 · A call from Rahim Khan

Section 5 · Chapters 20–23 · Amir's return to a changed Kabul

Section 6 · Chapters 24–25 · Trying to bring Sohrab home

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. I mistook his **aloofness** for simple shyness.

- A. quiet arrogance
- B. plain boredom
- C. coldness and detachment

2. The **coveted** trophy sat gleaming on the shelf.

- A. recently polished
- B. greatly desired
- C. carefully guarded

3. Her **impeccable** manners impressed everyone at dinner.

- A. flawless; faultless
- B. stiff and formal
- C. warm and welcoming

4. Her **ingrained** fear of dogs never fully faded.

- A. completely irrational
- B. deeply rooted; lasting
- C. quietly hidden

5. The **obstinate** toddler refused to put on his shoes.

- A. shy and uncertain
- B. tired and cranky
- C. stubborn and unyielding

6. She felt great **trepidation** before her first day at the new school.

- A. nervous fear and worry
- B. mild curiosity
- C. restless impatience

7. His **unatoned** wrongs still haunted him years later.

- A. not made right; unredeemed
- B. blamed on other people
- C. kept secret from all

8. Reporters exposed the **unscrupulous** business owner.

- A. reckless with money
- B. without moral principles
- C. harsh and short-tempered

9. She **vehemently** denied ever taking the money.

- A. with a hint of humor
- B. over and over again
- C. with great force and feeling

10. Betraying a loyal friend is a **wretched** thing to do.

- A. morally despicable
- B. truly miserable
- C. deeply foolish

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

harelip — having a cleft lip (a congenital split in the upper lip)

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	A

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *“It was my past of unatoned sins.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “unatoned” most nearly suggests that Amir’s past wrongs were...

- A. long ago forgotten by others
- B. never made right or redeemed
- C. punished more than they deserved

2 *“... married Sanaubar, a woman nineteen years younger, a beautiful but notoriously unscrupulous woman who lived up to her dishonorable reputation.”*

In the passage, Sanaubar is characterized as a woman who is...

- A. generous but quick-tempered
- B. shy and deeply devout
- C. without moral scruples or principles

3 *“Of course, Baba refused, and everyone shook their heads in dismay at his obstinate ways.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Baba’s “obstinate ways” led him to...

- A. abandon the orphanage project
- B. refuse to change his mind despite advice
- C. hire an experienced architect

4 *“‘There is no act more wretched than stealing, Amir,’ Baba said.”*

Which choice best describes Baba’s attitude toward stealing?

- A. mild disapproval he rarely enforces
- B. reluctant acceptance of it at times
- C. utter contempt for it as the worst act

5 *“That was how I escaped my father’s aloofness, in my dead mother’s books.”*

The author most likely mentions Amir’s escape into his mother’s books in order to...

- A. convey Baba’s emotional distance from Amir
- B. explain why Amir disliked school
- C. show Amir resented his late mother

6 *“... before my grandfather, who was a highly regarded judge and a man of impeccable reputation.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. The grandfather was widely distrusted.
- B. The grandfather bribed other officials.
- C. The grandfather’s reputation was flawless.

7 *“Their father argued, but not too vehemently, and in the end, everyone agreed that the punishment had been perhaps harsh but fair.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the brothers’ father...

- A. barely protested the sentence
- B. angrily demanded the boys’ release
- C. refused to address the judge

8 *“... to live with such an ingrained sense of one’s place in a hierarchy.”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to show...

- A. how deeply Hassan accepts his low place
- B. Assef’s rightful claim to authority
- C. Hassan’s open defiance of custom

9 *“... we walked home in trepidation, certain that Assef and his friends would ambush us every time we turned a corner.”*

According to the passage, how did the boys feel as they walked home?

- A. fearful that Assef might attack
- B. indifferent to Assef’s threat
- C. triumphant after facing Assef

10 *“For kite runners, the most coveted prize was the last fallen kite of a winter tournament.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that, for kite runners, the last fallen kite was...

- A. thought to bring runners bad luck
- B. the prize they most wanted to win
- C. a kite no one bothered to chase

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	'unatoned' is the negative of 'atone' (to make amends); it names the guilt that drives the whole novel.
2	C	
3	B	
4	C	Character comprehension. The wider sermon frames theft as the one true sin, so 'wretched' here means morally despicable, not merely miserable.
5	A	Character comprehension.
6	C	
7	A	
8	A	Theme comprehension.
9	A	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–6

The narrator Amir recalls his childhood in 1970s Kabul with Hassan, the Hazara servant boy who is his closest companion, alongside his complicated bond with his father, Baba. The boys' world, the bully Assef, and the winter kite-fighting tradition are all established. Breaks before the tournament chapter to keep the early, untroubled childhood as one unit.