

The Kite Runner

Chapters 7–9

by Khaled Hosseini

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: chasm, demise, facade, guileless, indignation, periphery, resignation, thwart, unwavering, vindication

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. A wide **chasm** split the canyon floor into two halves.

- A. a winding trail
- B. a deep gap
- C. a rocky ledge

2. The scandal led to the powerful senator's **demise**.

- A. downfall or end
- B. public apology
- C. minor setback

3. She kept up a cheerful **facade** throughout the long, stressful week.

- A. a false front
- B. a steady mood
- C. a daily routine

4. The **guileless** child believed every story the older kids told her.

- A. cheerful and playful
- B. innocent and trusting
- C. shy and timid

5. She felt a surge of **indignation** when the line-cutter shoved ahead of her.

- A. sudden confusion
- B. nervous fear
- C. anger at injustice

6. A few campers pitched their tents at the **periphery** of the field.

- A. outer edge
- B. shaded section
- C. lowest point

7. He shrugged with **resignation** as the rain ruined the last day of vacation.

- A. sudden anger
- B. quiet acceptance
- C. mild boredom

8. The detective worked hard to **thwart** the robbery before it began.

- A. to solve or explain
- B. to report or record
- C. to prevent or block

9. Her **unwavering** focus helped her finish the marathon.

- A. steady and firm
- B. calm and relaxed
- C. intense and sharp

10. After years of doubt, the award felt like sweet **vindication**.

- A. a stroke of luck
- B. a kind gesture
- C. being proven right

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

a thousand times over — an emphatic vow of devotion — 'gladly, without limit'

the look of the lamb — the expression of silent, accepting submission, like a lamb led to sacrifice

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “Then the old warrior would walk to the young one, embrace him, acknowledge his worthiness. Vindication. Salvation. Redemption.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “vindication” most nearly suggests that Amir will finally be...

- A. pitied by Baba
- B. forgiven a wrong
- C. proven worthy

2 “He moved his head slightly and I caught a glimpse of his face. Saw the resignation in it.”

In the passage, Hassan is characterized as...

- A. accepting what is coming
- B. enraged and defiant
- C. plotting his escape

3 “I imagine the animal sees that its imminent demise is for a higher purpose.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the animal’s “demise” refers to its...

- A. sudden escape
- B. long recovery
- C. approaching death

4 “The answer floated to my conscious mind before I could thwart it: He was just a Hazara, wasn’t he?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Amir’s cruel thought...

- A. was quickly dismissed
- B. surfaced against his will
- C. was carefully chosen

5 “And if he knew, then what would I see if I did look in his eyes? Blame? Indignation?”

Which choice best describes the feeling Amir fears he would find in Hassan’s eyes?

- A. anger at being wronged
- B. calm forgiveness
- C. guilt over failing Amir

6 “Or, God forbid, what I feared most: guileless devotion?”

In context, the word “guileless” emphasizes Hassan’s...

- A. clever, hidden scheming
- B. pure, trusting innocence
- C. bitter resentment

7 “We’d actually deceived ourselves into thinking that a toy made of tissue paper, glue, and bamboo could somehow close the chasm between us.”

The author most likely contrasts a flimsy paper kite with the “chasm” in order to...

- A. stress how deep the rift was
- B. explain how kites are made
- C. show Amir’s flying skill

8 “Hassan milled about the periphery of my life after that.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Hassan now occupies a place that is...

- A. closer than ever to Amir
- B. central to Amir’s days
- C. at the edge of Amir’s life

9 “Everywhere I turned, I saw signs of his loyalty, his goddamn unwavering loyalty.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Hassan’s loyalty never faltered
- B. Hassan’s loyalty came and went
- C. Hassan resented serving Amir

10 “When I looked into them, the facade faltered, revealed a glimpse of the madness hiding behind them.”

In the passage, Assef is characterized as...

- A. genuinely calm and kind
- B. masking madness behind calm
- C. openly raging from the start

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	Event comprehension. Here 'resignation' means accepting the unavoidable, not quitting a post.
3	C	
4	B	
5	A	Event comprehension.
6	B	
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	
10	B	Character comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

Amir wins the kite tournament, but in its aftermath an act of violence and Amir's failure to intervene poison his friendship with Hassan. Amir's guilt drives a wedge between the boys, and the section ends with Hassan and his father Ali leaving the household. This closes the Kabul-childhood movement at the strong break before the family's life is upended by war.