

The Kite Runner

Chapters 10–13

by Khaled Hosseini

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: ambivalent, ashen, brunt, chagrin, furtive, lineage, meticulous, oblivious, stature, tenets

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. She felt **ambivalent** about moving to a new city.

- A. torn by mixed feelings
- B. calm and reassured
- C. sad and discouraged

2. Her face turned **ashen** when she heard the terrible news.

- A. pale and drained of color
- B. damp and shining with sweat
- C. tight and twisted with pain

3. The small village bore the **brunt** of the powerful storm.

- A. the main force or worst part
- B. the scattered remains
- C. the early warning signs

4. To his **chagrin**, he realized he had forgotten his lines on stage.

- A. surprise and confusion
- B. worry and impatience
- C. distress and embarrassment

5. He cast a **furtive** glance over his shoulder before slipping away.

- A. nervous and hurried
- B. long and thoughtful
- C. secretive and stealthy

6. He was proud of his family's noble **lineage**.

- A. line of ancestors
- B. record of achievements
- C. circle of close friends

7. The accountant kept **meticulous** records of every expense.

- A. complete and up to date
- B. very careful and precise
- C. private and confidential

8. He was so **oblivious** to the time that he missed his bus.

- A. easily distracted
- B. carelessly indifferent
- C. completely unaware

9. As a respected judge, she was a woman of great **stature** in the community.

- A. wealth and property
- B. importance and standing
- C. warmth and kindness

10. Honesty and respect are central **tenets** of the club.

- A. shared group activities
- B. core principles or beliefs
- C. long-standing customs

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

unmindful — not paying attention to

khastegari — the traditional Afghan act of formally asking a woman's family for her hand in marriage

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “Kamal’s father was sitting cross-legged in the center of the circle, rocking back and forth, kissing his son’s ashen face.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “ashen” most nearly suggests that Kamal’s face is...

- A. darkened and bruised
- B. pale and drained of color
- C. peaceful, as though asleep

2 “Honor and pride. The tenets of Pashtun men. Especially when it came to the chastity of a wife. Or a daughter.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, for Pashtun men, honor and pride are...

- A. concerns raised only in public
- B. rules forced on them by outsiders
- C. core principles they live by

3 “And she would bear the brunt of that poison ...”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. the gossip would soon be forgotten
- B. Soraya would suffer the worst of it
- C. Amir and Soraya would share the blame

4 “A reticence broken only by her secret, droopy smiles and the furtive, apologetic looks she cast my way when the general’s attention was engaged elsewhere.”

In the passage, Khanum Taheri is characterized as...

- A. kind to Amir but careful not to be seen
- B. cold and distant toward Amir
- C. openly defiant of her husband

5 “You are... honorable people... from distinguished and reputable families and... proud lineage.”

Baba’s reference to the family’s “proud lineage” primarily functions to...

- A. boast of his own family’s fame
- B. question whether the match is fitting
- C. honor their distinguished ancestors

6 “... work unsuitable for a man of his stature ...”

In the passage, the general is characterized as...

- A. generous toward his fellow Afghans
- B. too proud to take ordinary work
- C. physically too frail to hold a job

7 “Soraya joined me at San Jose State the following year and enrolled, to her father’s chagrin, in the teaching track.”

According to the passage, the general greets Soraya’s choice of the teaching track with...

- A. complete indifference
- B. quiet approval
- C. annoyed disappointment

8 “IVF proved lengthy, meticulous, frustrating, and ultimately unsuccessful.”

In context, the word “meticulous” emphasizes that the IVF process was...

- A. careful and precise at every step
- B. stressful and discouraging
- C. drawn out and tedious

9 “We’d talked at home about adoption. Soraya was ambivalent at best.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Soraya’s feelings about adoption are...

- A. mixed and pulled two ways
- B. firmly and clearly opposed
- C. eager and fully committed

10 “... oblivious to the fact that her well-intended but overbearing sympathy was precisely what was driving Soraya to move.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Khala Jamila...

- A. cannot see she is driving Soraya away
- B. knowingly ignores Soraya’s wishes
- C. blames Soraya for the distance

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	Event comprehension.
2	C	
3	B	
4	A	Character comprehension.
5	C	
6	B	Character comprehension. The 'physically too frail' option traps students who read stature as physical height; here it means standing earned by reputation.
7	C	Character comprehension.
8	A	
9	A	Character comprehension.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–13

In 1981 Amir and Baba escape Soviet–occupied Afghanistan and eventually settle in Fremont, California. Amir comes of age in America, meets and marries Soraya, and the section closes with Baba's death. It ends the American chapter of the story before a phone call draws Amir back toward his past.