

The Kite Runner

Chapters 14–19

by Khaled Hosseini

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: animosity, atone, contemptuous, cursory, futility, kinship, oblivion, pragmatic, pretext, unrequited

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. There was deep **animosity** between the two rival families.

- A. strong hostility
- B. bitter jealousy
- C. cautious distrust

2. He spent years trying to **atone** for the harm he had caused.

- A. place blame
- B. make amends
- C. make excuses

3. She gave the cheater a **contemptuous** look and turned away.

- A. amused
- B. scornful
- C. envious

4. The busy manager gave the report a **cursory** glance before signing it.

- A. puzzled and curious
- B. warm and approving
- C. hasty and superficial

5. Repairing the rusted fence felt like an exercise in **futility**.

- A. frustration
- B. exhaustion
- C. pointlessness

6. Travelers far from home often feel a sudden **kinship** toward anyone who speaks their language.

- A. a feeling of envy
- B. a spark of distrust
- C. a sense of connection

7. After the long week, she craved the **oblivion** of a dreamless sleep.

- A. total exhaustion
- B. total unawareness
- C. total stillness

8. Rather than chase a wild dream, she made a **pragmatic** choice about her future.

- A. sensible and realistic
- B. cautious and fearful
- C. bold and daring

9. He stopped by her desk on the **pretext** of returning a borrowed book.

- A. a false reason
- B. a sudden impulse
- C. a kind favor

10. His **unrequited** feelings for her left him quietly heartbroken.

- A. not returned
- B. kept secret
- C. slowly fading

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

watan — homeland; native land (Dari/Pashto)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	C
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	A
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 “... to be free to drift away and forget, at least for a while, about the futility of what we’d just done.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘futility’ most nearly suggests that what they had done felt...

- A. secretly shameful
- B. pointless and empty
- C. physically exhausting

2 “But I am not surrendering to fate here, I am being pragmatic.”

In the passage, Rahim Khan is characterized as...

- A. clear-eyed and realistic
- B. stubbornly hopeful
- C. fearful and despairing

3 “... his life of unrequited loyalty drifting from him like the windblown kites he used to chase.”

The author likens Hassan’s loyalty to ‘windblown kites’ in order to...

- A. show his devotion was never returned
- B. highlight his skill at kite running
- C. suggest he died still hopeful

4 “The pretext was that they had evicted a trespasser.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the Taliban’s stated reason for taking the house...

- A. was legally justified
- B. was deliberately false
- C. was true but harsh

5 “... Rahim Khan had summoned me here to atone not just for my sins but for Baba’s too.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Rahim Khan summoned Amir to Peshawar to...

- A. confront Rahim Khan’s lies
- B. make amends for past wrongs
- C. reclaim his father’s house

6 “I wished he had let me live on in my oblivion.”

In context, the word ‘oblivion’ emphasizes...

- A. his wish to remain unaware
- B. his fear of dying
- C. his longing for home

7 “Farid gave me another dismissive look, this one with a hint of barely suppressed animosity ...”

Which choice best describes Farid’s attitude toward Amir?

- A. polite indifference
- B. cautious respect
- C. restrained hostility

8 “... took a cursory glance inside, and waved us on.”

According to the passage, the militia at the checkpoint...

- A. questioned the travelers
- B. searched the car thoroughly
- C. barely inspected the vehicle

9 “... fixing me with a contemptuous gaze.”

In the passage, Farid is characterized as...

- A. warmly welcoming
- B. nervous and shy
- C. scornful toward Amir

10 “The kinship I felt suddenly for the old land... it surprised me.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, on his ancestral soil, Amir felt...

- A. an unexpected bond with his homeland
- B. fear of the dangers ahead
- C. relief at finally leaving

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	A	Character comprehension. The windblown-kite image echoes the novel's central betrayal.
4	B	Event comprehension.
5	B	Theme comprehension. 'Atone' names the redemption arc Rahim Khan sets in motion.
6	A	
7	C	
8	C	
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 14–19

Rahim Khan summons Amir to Pakistan, where he reveals long-hidden truths about Hassan and asks Amir to take on a dangerous task. Amir crosses back into Taliban-controlled Afghanistan seeking a way to make amends. The section groups the summons and the journey together, breaking before Amir reaches Kabul.