

The Kite Runner

Chapters 24–25

by Khaled Hosseini

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apprehension, ascertain, erroneous, impunity, milieu, relinquish, squalid, stupor, turmoil, unwitting

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 waited outside the principal's office with growing **apprehension**.

- A. anxiety or dread
- B. anger or irritation
- C. doubt or suspicion

2. Detectives worked through the night to **ascertain** the cause of the fire.

- A. announce to reporters
- B. find out for certain
- C. argue about at length

3. The report was based on **erroneous** data and had to be withdrawn.

- A. secret or private
- B. incorrect or mistaken
- C. outdated or old

4. He assumed he could lie with **impunity**.

- A. complete confidence
- B. obvious difficulty
- C. freedom from punishment

5. The artist felt most at home in the bohemian **milieu** of the old city.

- A. social surroundings
- B. yearly festival
- C. central marketplace

6. She refused to **relinquish** the trophy even after the judges' decision.

- A. give up or hand over
- B. show off to others
- C. lock safely away

7. Tourists hurried past the **squalid** tenements without looking up.

- A. old but well-kept
- B. noisy and crowded
- C. filthy and run-down

8. After the long flight, she sank into a **stupor** on the couch.

- A. a fit of anger
- B. a dazed, numb state
- C. a peaceful sleep

9. The sudden layoffs threw the whole company into **turmoil**.

- A. chaos and confusion
- B. rapid growth
- C. joyful celebration

10. He became an **unwitting** accomplice when he lent his car to the thieves.

- A. clever and scheming
- B. eager and willing
- C. unaware and unintentional

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

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

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	C
8	B
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 “How could he be so oblivious to my apprehension?”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘apprehension’ most nearly refers to Amir’s...

- A. dread over the missing boy
- B. irritation with the manager
- C. sudden grasp of the situation

2 “... the mosque had jolted Sohrab from his stupor when we’d driven by it ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that, before passing the mosque, Sohrab had been...

- A. chatting with the driver
- B. sleeping in the back seat
- C. in a numb, unresponsive daze

3 “I had found the boy in squalid conditions, wasting away in an orphanage.”

Which statement about the orphanage is best supported by the passage?

- A. It was crowded but orderly.
- B. It was poor but cheerful.
- C. It was filthy and wretched.

4 “... it’s always difficult to ascertain that a child is an orphan.”

According to the lawyer, after a disaster the authorities often cannot...

- A. find homes for displaced children
- B. be sure a child is truly an orphan
- C. process all the cases quickly

5 “... adoption agencies routinely send staff members to evaluate the child’s milieu, and no reasonable agency is going to send an agent to Afghanistan.”

It can reasonably be inferred that an adoption agency normally expects to...

- A. inspect the child’s home surroundings
- B. interview the child’s former teachers
- C. review the child’s school records

6 “You could relinquish him to an orphanage here, then file an orphan petition.”

In context, the word ‘relinquish’ emphasizes that Amir would be...

- A. settling the boy into a home
- B. surrendering the boy to a home
- C. touring a home with the boy

7 “... forgive that I have betrayed, lied, and sinned with impunity only to turn to Him now in my hour of need ...”

Which choice best describes the speaker’s attitude in this prayer?

- A. pride at having escaped all blame
- B. bitterness at being wrongly blamed
- C. anguished remorse for unpunished sins

8 “... lifting him from the certainty of turmoil and dropping him in a turmoil of uncertainty.”

The mirrored phrasing in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. contrast old dangers with new fears
- B. stress how smooth the move was
- C. show that his suffering had ended

9 “I had been the entitled half, the society-approved, legitimate half, the unwitting embodiment of Baba’s guilt.”

In the passage, Amir characterizes himself as...

- A. a willing keeper of the secret
- B. an unknowing sign of Baba’s guilt
- C. a deliberate rebuke to Baba

10 “It would be erroneous to say Sohrab was quiet.”

The author most likely opens with the word ‘erroneous’ in order to...

- A. reject a mistaken description of Sohrab
- B. praise Sohrab’s peaceful nature
- C. admit to an earlier factual error

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	C	
4	B	
5	A	
6	B	
7	C	'With impunity' means he sinned without ever facing consequences; that escape from punishment is the source of the guilt driving his prayer.
8	A	Event comprehension. The deliberate reversal — 'certainty of turmoil' becoming 'turmoil of uncertainty' — captures Sohrab's move from a known danger in Afghanistan to an uncertain new life.
9	B	Character comprehension. 'Unwitting' stresses that Amir embodied his father's guilt without knowing Hassan was his half-brother.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 24–25

In Islamabad, Amir works to bring Sohrab, Hassan's son, to the United States, but bureaucratic obstacles and the boy's trauma threaten the plan. The novel moves toward its resolution as Amir tries to keep his promise. Section runs to the end of the novel.