

The Kite Runner

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The Kite Runner is a historical-fiction novel that takes place in the USA and Afghanistan through 1963-1981. The book is narrated by Amir, a young boy in Afghanistan, and we get to see how the traumas he endures changes his perspective on both outsiders and him. In the beginning of the book, he lives with Baba (his father), his servant (as well as his best friend) Hassan, and Hassan's father, Ali. The book starts off with action, and the story seems to progress quickly. There is a lot of foreshadowing, and the past seems to repeat itself often throughout the story.

The Kite Runner is full of both hope and grief. It does, of course, thoroughly describe the hardships people went through while living in Afghanistan 1963-1981, but the grief goes much farther than that. It dives into the human emotion of guilt, and how terribly it may change a person who is suffering from it. It also showcases how family secrets can haunt a person. Somehow, throughout all of that, it manages to keep a hopeful tone that the future will be better than the reality they're currently facing.

Major themes in this book include friendship, betrayal, warfare, and race. The Kite Runner is able to touch briefly on several important characteristics of human nature, while keeping the plot easy to follow. The book goes at just the right pace to keep the reader involved and interested, and also manages not to throw too much at the reader at once. The writing style is very plain and isn't too personalized, and it fits perfectly with the solemn tone of the book.

Reading this book requires emotional maturity. There are dark themes discussed, including death, suicide, and poverty. The target audience seems to be young adults. This book is more fun to read when you're able to discuss the events in the book with others, so reading it with a friend or two may be a great option.

Recommended titles

The Help, Kathryn Stockett

Unwind, Neal Schusterman

The Magician's Elephant, Katie DiCamillo.