

Summer Reading Assignment: 12 Honors

Requirements: Students of English IV Honors are required to read **one** of the following novels—*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini **OR** *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte—and complete the following assignment. The assignment is **due on the first day of class**. **Late assignments will receive a grade of 0.** You will be given an **objective test** on your novel the second day of class, so be prepared!

Summer Essay Assignment

Directions: Complete the following essay questions in **typed** format, using MLA style, Times New Roman, 12 point. A hard copy of the completed essays will be due on the **first day** of class. **You will be required to submit your electronic copy to turnitin.com** by the end of the end of the first week. This is a web site that checks for plagiarism. This means that **you must have an electronic copy** of your work. (This assignment will count the equivalent of the objective test given on the second day of class.)

Themes: In a well-developed paragraph answer **five** of the following questions.

1. Discuss how the culture in your novel—English society or the Afghanistan culture—encourages various forms of discrimination. Develop your answer with specific examples from the novel.
2. Consider the narrative structure of your novel. Both novels are first person accounts; however, *The Kite Runner* begins in the present and moves to the past, and eventually returns to the present. *Jane Eyre* begins with Jane's early years and moves chronologically through her life to adulthood. Discuss why the respective author's method of narration is important to understanding the moral development of the main character—Amir or Jane.
3. Both novels feature a character alienated from those around him/her. Discuss the nature and cause of this alienation/isolation, and how the character deals with the isolation. (Consider: Baba or Amir; Rochester or Jane.)
4. One criticism of each novel has been the coincidental nature of the plot—the ending of *Kite Runner* or the recurring incidents in *Jane Eyre*. Consider—is it coincidence or the author's use of Fate? In a well-reasoned paragraph discuss this issue, drawing evidence from the novel to support your view.
5. A motif evident in both works is the role of *money*. Discuss how money has had a significant impact on the characters, relating the money motif to theme or characterization.

6. Each of the novels deals with family issues. Discuss how family or an individual family member has been a hindrance and/or a help to the development of the main character.

7. Select a minor character who appears briefly and discuss how he or she has a major impact on the development of the main character.

8. Both novels feature more than one setting. In *Kite Runner* Amir moves to the States, whereas in *Jane Eyre*, Jane moves several times during her life's journey. Sometimes a change in setting serves as a new beginning for a character. Discuss how a change in setting has significantly influenced the development of Amir or Jane.

9. A foil character is one "whose qualities or actions serve to emphasize those of the protagonist or another character by providing a strong contrast." Select **one** of the following pairs and write a well-developed comparison/contrast paragraph.

- The Reed cousins—John, Eliza, Georgiana to the Rivers cousins—St. John, Mary and Diana
- Mr. Rochester and St. John Rivers
- Jane Eyre and Bertha Mason

OR:

- Rahim Khan and Baba
- Hassan and Amir

NOTE: In preparation for the test on your novel, be familiar with the following characters from *The Kite Runner* or *Jane Eyre*.

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini

Amir	Ali	Rahim Khan	General Taheri
Hassan	Sohrab	Assef	Farid
Baba	Soraya		

OR:

Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte

Jane	Helen Burns	St. John Rivers
Mrs. Reed and family	Mrs. Fairfax	Bertha Mason
Bessie	Mr. Rochester	Richard Mason
Brocklehurst	Adele	Mr. Briggs
Miss Temple	Blanche Ingram	Grace Poole