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## The kite runner characters physical descriptions

The narrator and the protagonist of the story. Amir is the sensitive and intelligent son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and he grows up with a sense of entitlement. His best friend is Hassan, and he goes back and forth between acting as a loyal friend and attacking Hassan out of jealousy when Hassan receives Amir's father's affection. Amir is a gifted storyteller and grows from aspiring author to published author. His great desire to please his father is the primary motivation for his behavior early in the novel, and that is the main reason he allows Hassan to be raped. From then on, he is driven by his feelings of guilt as he searches to find a way to redeem himself. Ultimately, he does it through courage and self-sacrifice, and he tells his story as a form of penance. Read a thorough analysis of Amir. Amir's best friend and half-brother, as well as a servant of Baba. Hassan proves himself as a loyal friend to Amir repeatedly, defends Amir when he is attacked and is always ready to listen. His defining qualities are bravery, selflessness and intelligence, although his cleverness is more instinctive than bookish, mainly because he is uneducated. As an impoverished ethnic Hazara, he is considered an inferior in Afghan society, and he is a victim of racism throughout the novel as a result. He is Baba's illegitimate child, although he is not aware of this fact, and he grows up with Ali as his father. His rape is an early catalyst in the story, and although he is not present in a significant part of the novel, he plays an important role throughout. Read a thorough analysis of Hassan. Father of Amir and Hassan and a wealthy, respected businessman. Baba believes first and foremost in doing what is right and thinking for himself, and he tries to convey these qualities to Amir. Nor does he ever let anyone's lack of faith in him stop him from achieving his goals. Although he distrusts religious fundamentalism, he follows his own moral code and acts with self-confidence and bravery. When necessary, he is even willing to risk his life for what he believes in. But his shame at having a child with a Hazara woman leads him to hide the fact that Hassan is his son. Because he can't love Hassan openly, he's a little distant to Amir and is often him, even though he undoubtedly loves him. Read a thorough analysis of Baba. Acting father of Hassan and a servant of Baba. Ali is defined by his modesty more than anything else, and he works diligently as Baba's servant. He loves Hassan deeply, although he rarely expresses his feelings outwardly. Poor and an ethnic Hazara, he suffers from partial paralysis of the face and walks with a limp caused by polio. Read a thorough analysis of Ali. Son of Hassan and Farzana. In many ways, Sohrab acts as a substitute for Hassan in the novel, and he is a focus of the plot in parts of the book. He is also an ethnic Hazara and is great with a slingshot. His character's bow takes him from being a normal little boy to traumatized victim of sexual and physical abuse, and he goes from speaking very little to not at all. Read a thorough analysis of Sohrab. Hassan's and Sohrab's rapist and the novel's antagonist. Assef represents all things that are wrong in Afghanistan. A racist who wants to rid Afghanistan of Hazaras, he is incapable of remorse and likes to inflict violence and sexual abuse on those who are powerless. He even claims Hitler as a role model. Read a thorough analysis of Assef. Friend of Baba and Amir. Rahim Khan is Baba's closest confidant, and the only man who knows all of Baba's secrets. For Amir, he serves a father figure, often giving Amir the attention he wants and filling the gaps left by Baba's emotional distance. Amir's driver and friend. Farid is a former mujahedin fighter, and is first gruff and unfriendly. But he becomes a valuable and loyal friend to Amir in Amir's quest to find and save Sohrab. He lacks his toes and fingers from a landmine explosion and represents the difficulties many Afghans faced in the years of warfare that ravaged the country. Hassan's mother and Ali's wife for a while. Although Sanaubar is notoriously immoral in her youth and leaves Hassan shortly after he is born, she proves herself as a caring grandmother to Sohrab when she reappears later in the novel. Amir's wife. Soraya is steady, intelligent, and always there for Amir when he needs her. She can be strong-willed as her father, General Taheri, and apologizes for the way women are often treated in Afghan culture. Sodaya's father and a friend of Baba's. General Taheri is proud of the point of arrogance at times, and he greatly appreciates maintaining Afghan traditions. He is in many ways the stereotypical Afghan man, both in his roles as a father and a husband. General Taheri's wife and Soraya's mother. Jamila plays the role of the typical Afghan wife and mother. She obeys her husband without question and wants nothing more than to see her daughter married. A boy from Amir's and Hassan's neighborhoods, Kamal helps Assef rape Hassan. After he is raped himself, he becomes a symbol of the brutality that destroys Afghanistan. Sodaya's uncle. When Sharif first shows up, he's just a minor figure at Soraya's and Amir's weddings. Later, however, he becomes instrumental in helping to bring Sohrab into the United States. Amir's mother. Although Sofia died during the birth, Amir knows she loved literature like he does. Amir seeks information about her at various points in the novel. Hassan's wife and Sohrab's mother. Farzana appears only briefly, but in that time she is portrayed as a loving mother. One of the boys from the neighborhood who helps Assef rape Hassan. Wali is as a conformist. In literature, physical descriptions are used to explain or represent stereotypes, personality traits the character has or different themes in the book. In Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini, Hosseini describes all the characters physical descriptions in ways to symbolize how they connect with the story and the real story behind the story's setting. The first example of this that I'm going to mention is Hassan's smaller Cleft Lip. At the beginning of the story, when Amir describes Hassan, he says: And the cleft lip, just to the left of the center line, where the Chinese puppeteer's instrument may have slipped, or perhaps he had just become tired and careless (Hosseini 3). It started as just one of his identifying features that he was born with, but unlike most people born with a cleft lip, his family could not afford the cost of the medical procedure to fix it. It wasn't until Chapter 5 where Baba pays for Hassan to get his cleft lip firmly, leaving a scar on top of his lip. This shows how Hassan is connected to the story because later in the story, after Hassan dies, Amir finds out Hassan was actually his half-brother and travels to Kabul to have Hassan's son, Sohrab. On the way, he'll have... show more content... In the story, Amir describes it as a brown, sickle-shaped birthmark on the smooth skin roughly her left jawline (Hosseini 140). Hosseini gave her this feature because when Amir sees her he will be drawn to her because just like Hassan, his childhood friend, she was born with an imperfection. Also a sickle is on the flag of the Soviet Union, representing the country's farmers. The Soviet Union is the country that attacked Afghanistan when the government fell. When Soraya and her family moved to America, they moved from high class to the lowest class, accepting peasant lifestyles. This shows that Hosseini gave Soraya the birthmark to represent the lifestyle her parents had chosen in HomeStudy GuidesThe Kite RunnerCharacter List The Kite Runner Hassan's father. Ali is a Hazara that Baba's father took in when his parents were killed. He grew up with Baba just like Hassan did with Amir. Ali has a crippled leg and paralysis in his lower muscles and the neighborhood's children ridicule him. He is as devoted and loyal as his son. Ali is killed by a landmine when Hassan is already grown. The story's narrator and protagonist. He is an Afghan man who had a privileged childhood in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of Kabul. The defining event of his life is his betrayal to his closest friend, Hassan. Amir lives in San Francisco from the age of eighteen. He returns to Afghanistan at the age of 38 and ends up adopting Hassan's orphaned son, Sohrab. A sociopath who worships Hitler. As a child, he's the neighborhood bully who rapes Hassan. As an adult, he is a Taliban official delights in People. He keeps Sohrab as a sex slave until Amir comes to save him. After her nearly kills Amir, Assef loses an eye to Sohrab's slingshot. It is possible that Hosseini based the character assef on the reclusive one-eyed Taliban leader Mullah Omar. Amir's father. He is a wealthy and respected man with a dark secret: He had an affair with Ali's wife and Hassan is his illegitimate son. Baba wishes Amir was braver and stronger, and that he could openly express his love for Hassan. Baba dies of terminal cancer in San Francisco shortly after Amir's wedding. The Afghan man who drives Amir from Peshawar to Kabul and ends up helping him throughout the journey. He was injured in the fight against the Soviets and is strongly proud of his loyalty to Afghanistan. He saves Amir by taking him to a hospital in Pakistan. Sodaya's father. He is a former general who prefers to collect welfare to lower himself to a blue collar job. He waits every day to be called back to Afghanistan. Amir's most loyal and devoted servant, who is born with a slit lip. He and Amir were nurtured by the same woman, and without knowing it to both of them they are half-brothers. Hassan is illiterate, but smart and stands up for others. He is also the best kite runner in Kabul. He dies at the hands of the Taliban, defending Baba's house from takeover. Sodaya's mother. She's a kind woman who likes to sing, even if her husband doesn't let her. She became a hypochondriac after having a stroke and loves Amir even more to listen to her describe her ailments. A lawyer advising Amir that his best chance is to place Sohrab in an orphanage temporarily. He grew up in America, but speaks perfectly Farsi. Baba's closest friend and Amir and Hassan's confidants. He has an eerie way of knowing what people think and how to talk to them. He is one of the few people who knows Hassan's real identity and about his rape. He encourages Amir to be a writer by giving him a notebook, and it is he who calls Amir back to Afghanistan to atone for his and Baba's sins. The official at the U.S. Embassy urging Amir to give up trying to save Sohrab. Amir thinks he's cruel and doesn't understand wanting a child until the secretary tells him that Raymond Andrew's daughter committed suicide. Hassan's mother. She was Ali's notoriously beautiful cousin and second wife, who ran away with a troupe of dancers. She refused to hold Hassan when he was born. Years later, she returns to Wazir Akbar Khan to ask for forgiveness from Hassan and ends up helping raise Sohrab. She dies peacefully when he's four. Amir's mother, who died in childbirth. She was a professor of literature at the university and her books inspire Amir to become a writer. Hassan and Farzana's son. After his parents are killed, he stays at an orphanage in Karteh-Seh. Then he's a sex slave to Assef to Amir Him. Sohrab tries to commit suicide after Amir tells him he may have to stay in an orphanage again. Finally, Amir and Soraya bring him to America and adopt him. Amir's wife. She embarrassed her family as a young woman by running away with a man. She takes care of Baba when he is sick and eagerly accepts Sohrab into her family. Farid's brother. When Amir stays with him, Wahid is kind to him and doesn't judge him for being American. He calls Amir a true Afghan. Next section Dictionary Previous section Kite Runner Summary Buy Study Guide Asnes, Tania. Miller, W.C. oath. The Kite Runner Characters. GradeSaver, 29 September 2007 Web. Quote this page

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