

Read the following passage from *The Kite Runner* and work through the following sections of questions

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I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek. That was a long time ago, but it's wrong what they say about the past, I've learned, about how you can bury it. Because the past claws its way out. Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years.

One day last summer, my friend Rahim Khan called from Pakistan. He asked me to come see him. Standing in the kitchen with the receiver to my ear, I knew it wasn't just Rahim Khan on the line. It was my past of unatoned sins. After I hung up, I went for a walk along Spreckels Lake on the northern edge of Golden Gate Park. The early-afternoon sun sparkled on the water where dozens of miniature boats sailed, propelled by a crisp breeze. Then I glanced up and saw a pair of kites, red with long blue tails, soaring in the sky. They danced high above the trees on the west end of the park, over the windmills, floating side by side like a pair of eyes looking down on San Francisco, the city I now call home. And suddenly Hassan's voice whispered in my head: *For you, a thousand times over.* Hassan the harelipped kite runner.

I sat on a park bench near a willow tree. I thought about something Rahim Khan said just before he hung up, almost as an afterthought. *There is a way to be good again.* I looked up at those twin kites. I thought about Hassan. Thought about Baba. Ali. Kabul. I thought of the life I had lived until the winter of 1975 came along and changed everything. And made me what I am today.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2005. Print.

INITIAL SURVEY OF THE TEXT

Make two columns, taking up about half a page. In the first column, summarize the passage. In the second column, write questions about the passage that would help you to clarify its meaning. Make a separate section for “how” questions. Your columns should look like something like this:

Summarize the Passage	“Who, What, Where, When, Which” Questions
	“How” Questions

EXAMINE THE DICTION

Make two columns, taking up about half a page. In the first column, list words from the text that seem emotionally potent. In the second column, write commentary about some or all of the words you chose, analyzing their effect. Describe connotations, the feelings and associations that seem connected to the words.

Notice the Diction	Write Commentary on the diction
Diction:	

Do Something With It:

Use the selected words from the passage to write a description of something else (not related to this book). Create a tone similar to the one in the passage.

ANALYZE THE IMAGES

Make two columns, taking up about half a page. In the first column, list descriptions of sight, sound, taste, touch, or smell. In the second column, write commentary about some or all of the images you chose, analyzing their effect. Describe the feelings and associations that seem connected to the words.

List the Images	Write commentary about the images

Do Something With It:

Write a paragraph explaining how the author creates a feeling of regret through the images he uses to describe the past, his surroundings, and the people.

POINT OF VIEW

Read the two quotations below. Then discuss the questions that follow with your classmates.

- “I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975.”
 - “Standing in the kitchen with the receiver to my ear, I knew it wasn’t just Rahim Khan on the line. It was my past of unatoned sins.”
1. From what perspective does the author want you, the reader, to view the scene?
 2. How would the scene be different if the narration was third person?
 3. The narrator is speaking of two different events in his life. How do you picture this narration? What is his perspective?
 4. How would the passage be different if it were told from the point of view of Rahim Kahn or another character?
 5. What attitude does the author want the reader to take toward the narrator? Towards Hassan?

Do Something With It:

Draw a two-part picture of the scenes (Kabul and San Francisco) as the passage asks you to view it.

SYNTAX

Note carefully the structure of the sentences in the passages below. Write a description of each sentence structure type.

I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek.

That was a long time ago, but it’s wrong what they say about the past, I’ve learned, about how you can bury it.

Because the past claws its way out.

Standing in the kitchen with the receiver to my ear, I knew it wasn’t just Rahim Khan on the line. It was my past of unatoned sins.

Then I glanced up and saw a pair of kites, red with long blue tails, soaring in the sky.

They danced high above the trees on the west end of the park, over the windmills, floating side by side like a pair of eyes looking down on San Francisco, the city I now call home.

And suddenly Hassan’s voice whispered in my head: *For you, a thousand times over.*

Hassan the harelipped kite runner.

Do Something With It:

Write a paragraph explaining how the author’s syntactical choices make the effect of the passage more dramatic.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND LITERARY DEVICES

Read the quotations below carefully. Match them with the literary devices and type of figurative language listed in the word bank. Underneath the quotations, write commentary explaining how these devices deepen the passage.

simile	Consonance	metaphor
personification	alliteration	sibilance

“Because the past claws its way out.”

“Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years.”

“ I knew it wasn’t just Rahim Khan on the line. It was my past of unatoned sins.”

“The early-afternoon sun sparkled on the water where dozens of miniature boats sailed, propelled by a crisp breeze.”

“They danced high above the trees on the west end of the park, over the windmills...”

“...floating side by side like a pair of eyes looking down on San Francisco, the city I now call home.”

“And suddenly Hassan’s voice whispered...”

“I looked up at those twin kites. I thought about Hassan.”

“I thought of the life I had lived until the winter of 1975 came along and changed everything. And made me what I am today. “

Do Something With It:

Choose one of the quotations and write a paragraph explaining how the author uses figurative language or a literary device to add to the scene.

THEME

For each of the following words, write a theme statement that is implied by the passage. Add others, if they occur to you.

1. Regret
2. Redemption
3. Loyalty
4. Introspection
5. Peace
6. Sin
7. Change
8. The passage of time
- 9.
- 10.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Lastly consider the passage in the light of the following AP-type prompt. Plan an introduction that you would use to write the essay that is assigned in the prompt.

Read the following passage carefully. In a well-written essay, analyze how the author uses the resources of language to create a powerful impression. Do not merely summarize the passage.