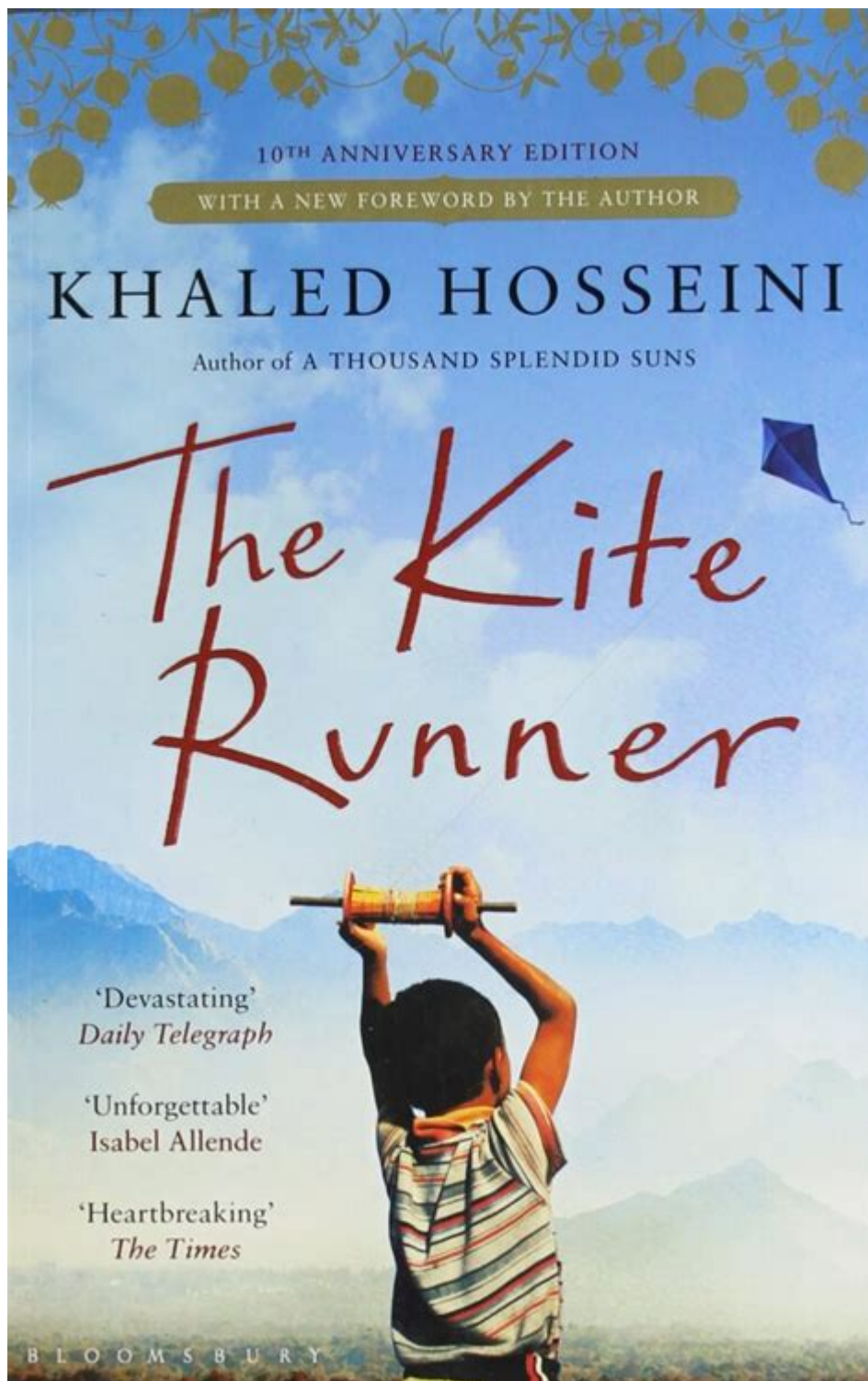


# The Kite Runner Sparknotes



## **The Kite Runner SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Khaled Hosseini's Masterpiece**

Are you diving into Khaled Hosseini's heartbreaking and powerful novel, *The Kite Runner*? Feeling overwhelmed by the rich tapestry of characters, themes, and historical context? This comprehensive guide acts as your ultimate *The Kite Runner* SparkNotes, providing a concise yet insightful summary, analysis of key themes, and character breakdowns to help you navigate this literary masterpiece. We'll unpack the complexities of Amir's journey, explore the enduring power of friendship and betrayal, and delve into the devastating impact of Afghanistan's turbulent history. Get ready to unlock a deeper understanding of this internationally acclaimed novel.

## A Brief Summary: Following Amir's Path

*The Kite Runner* follows the life of Amir, a privileged Pashtun boy growing up in 1970s Kabul. His complex relationship with his father, Baba, and his tormented conscience over a pivotal event in his childhood form the heart of the narrative. This event – the betrayal of his childhood friend Hassan – haunts Amir for decades. The story then spans across continents and decades, tracing Amir's journey from his affluent childhood in Kabul, through the turmoil of the Soviet invasion and the subsequent rise of the Taliban, to his eventual redemption in America. The novel explores themes of guilt, redemption, betrayal, and the enduring power of friendship in the face of unimaginable hardship.

## Key Characters: More Than Just Names

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the novel's emotional depth.

### #### Amir: The Protagonist's Journey of Self-Discovery

Amir is a complex and flawed character, grappling with guilt and self-loathing stemming from his childhood actions. His journey is one of self-discovery, confronting his past and seeking redemption. His privileged upbringing contrasts sharply with his later experiences as a refugee, highlighting the stark realities of war and displacement.

### #### Baba: The Father Figure's Influence

Baba, Amir's father, is a powerful and charismatic figure, yet possesses his own flaws and secrets. His complex relationship with Amir shapes the protagonist's life profoundly, influencing his choices and shaping his sense of self.

### #### Hassan: The Loyal Friend Betrayed

Hassan, Amir's childhood friend, embodies loyalty, innocence, and unwavering devotion. His tragic fate is a catalyst for Amir's lifelong struggle with guilt and his ultimate journey towards redemption.

#### #### Sohrab: A Reflection of the Past

Sohrab, Hassan's son, becomes a focal point in Amir's later life, representing a chance for atonement and a reflection of the past traumas he carries. His own experiences mirror those of Hassan, highlighting the cyclical nature of abuse and suffering.

## Unpacking the Themes: Exploring the Heart of the Novel

The Kite Runner is rich with powerful themes that resonate deeply with readers.

### Guilt and Redemption: The Central Conflict

The overwhelming sense of guilt stemming from Amir's betrayal of Hassan drives the narrative. His quest for redemption forms the backbone of the story, demonstrating the lengths to which one will go to atone for past mistakes.

### Friendship and Betrayal: The Broken Bond

The profound friendship between Amir and Hassan is tragically shattered by Amir's actions. This betrayal acts as a catalyst for much of the narrative's conflict and underscores the devastating consequences of choices made in youth.

### Father-Son Relationships: A Complex Dynamic

The complex dynamics between Amir and Baba, and later between Amir and Sohrab, highlight the complexities of father-son relationships. These relationships are fraught with unspoken expectations, unresolved conflicts, and the search for acceptance and love.

### The Impact of War and Displacement: A Bleak Reality

The novel provides a poignant portrayal of the devastating impact of war and displacement on individuals and communities. The experiences of Amir and other characters highlight the lasting scars of conflict and the challenges of rebuilding lives in the face of adversity.

## Conclusion: A Journey Worth Taking

The Kite Runner is more than just a story; it's a powerful exploration of human nature, the enduring power of the past, and the possibility of redemption. This SparkNotes guide provides a framework for understanding the novel's complexities, but ultimately, the full impact of Hosseini's masterpiece is best experienced through a personal reading. Embrace the emotional journey, allow yourself to be moved by the characters' struggles, and discover the profound truths woven into the narrative.

## FAQs

1. What is the significance of the kite in *The Kite Runner*? The kite symbolizes innocence, friendship, and the lost beauty of Amir's childhood. Its significance is further deepened by the symbolism of the kite-flying competition representing a pivotal moment of betrayal and the subsequent years of regret.
2. How does the setting of Afghanistan impact the story? The setting of Afghanistan is crucial, illustrating the societal structures, political turmoil, and cultural complexities that shape the characters' lives and their choices. The historical backdrop of war and upheaval provides a crucial context for the themes of displacement, trauma, and survival.
3. What is the meaning of the novel's title? The title "*The Kite Runner*" refers to Amir's childhood pastime and symbolically represents his running away from his guilt and responsibilities. It also signifies his eventual return to confront his past and attempt redemption.
4. What are the major conflicts in the novel? The major conflicts revolve around Amir's betrayal of Hassan, his strained relationship with Baba, the political unrest in Afghanistan, and his lifelong struggle with guilt and the search for redemption. These conflicts intertwine and escalate throughout the narrative.
5. What is the ultimate message of *The Kite Runner*? The novel ultimately speaks to the enduring power of redemption, even in the face of significant past transgressions. It highlights the importance of confronting one's past, seeking atonement, and the possibility of finding peace and forgiveness through acts of kindness and self-reflection.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini, 2011-09-05 Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that

afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Kite Runner** Khaled Hosseini, 2007 Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

**the kite runner sparknotes: A Thousand Splendid Suns** Khaled Hosseini, 2008-09-18 A riveting and powerful story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love

**the kite runner sparknotes: Ragtime** E.L. Doctorow, 2010-11-17 Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Nineteen eighty-four** George Orwell, 2022-11-22 This is a dystopian social science fiction novel and morality tale. The novel is set in the year 1984, a fictional future in which most of the world has been destroyed by unending war, constant government monitoring, historical revisionism, and propaganda. The totalitarian superstate Oceania, ruled by the Party and known as Airstrip One, now includes Great Britain as a province. The Party uses the Thought Police to repress individuality and critical thought. Big Brother, the tyrannical ruler of Oceania, enjoys a strong personality cult that was created by the party's overzealous brainwashing methods. Winston Smith, the main character, is a hard-working and skilled member of the Ministry of Truth's Outer Party who secretly despises the Party and harbors rebellious fantasies.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Odyssey** Homer, 2020-02-08T01:55:23Z The Odyssey is one of the oldest works of Western literature, dating back to classical antiquity. Homer's epic poem belongs in a collection called the Epic Cycle, which includes the Iliad. It was originally written in ancient Greek, utilizing a dactylic hexameter rhyme scheme. Although this rhyme scheme sounds beautiful in its native language, in modern English it can sound awkward and, as Eric McMillan humorously describes it, resembles "pumpkins rolling on a barn floor." William Cullen Bryant avoided this problem by composing his translation in blank verse, a rhyme scheme that sounds natural in English. This epic poem follows Ulysses, one of the Greek leaders that brought an end to the ten-year-long Trojan war. Longing for home, he travels across the Mediterranean Sea to return to his kingdom in Ithaca; unfortunately, our hero manages to anger Neptune, the god of the sea, making his trip home agonizingly slow and extremely dangerous. While Ulysses is trying to return home, his family in Ithaca is also in danger. Suitors have traveled to the home of Ulysses to marry his wife, Penelope, believing that her husband did not survive the war. These men are willing to kill anyone who stands in their way. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Old Man and the Sea** Ernest Hemingway, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Station Eleven** Emily St. John Mandel, 2014-09-09 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • A PEN/FAULKNER AWARD FINALIST • Set

in the eerie days of civilization's collapse—the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity. • Now an original series on HBO Max. • Over one million copies sold! One of the New York Times's 100 Best Books of the 21st Century Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed. Look for Emily St. John Mandel's bestselling new novel, *Sea of Tranquility*!

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *Educated* Tara Westover, 2018-02-20 #1 NEW YORK TIMES, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AND BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER • One of the most acclaimed books of our time: an unforgettable memoir about a young woman who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University “Extraordinary . . . an act of courage and self-invention.”—The New York Times NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW • ONE OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR • BILL GATES'S HOLIDAY READING LIST • FINALIST: National Book Critics Circle's Award In Autobiography and John Leonard Prize For Best First Book • PEN/Jean Stein Book Award • Los Angeles Times Book Prize Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. “Beautiful and propulsive . . . Despite the singularity of [Westover's] childhood, the questions her book poses are universal: How much of ourselves should we give to those we love? And how much must we betray them to grow up?”—Vogue NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post • O: The Oprah Magazine • Time • NPR • Good Morning America • San Francisco Chronicle • The Guardian • The Economist • Financial Times • Newsday • New York Post • theSkimm • Refinery29 • Bloomberg • Self • Real Simple • Town & Country • Bustle • Paste • Publishers Weekly • Library Journal • LibraryReads • Book Riot • Pamela Paul, KQED • New York Public Library

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Book Thief* Markus Zusak, 2007-12-18 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME The extraordinary, beloved novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times. When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. “The kind of book that can be life-changing.” —The New York Times “Deserves a place on the same shelf with *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank.” —USA Today DON'T MISS BRIDGE OF CLAY, MARKUS ZUSAK'S FIRST NOVEL SINCE THE BOOK THIEF.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Cellist of Sarajevo* Steven Galloway, 2009-02-24 This brilliant

novel with universal resonance tells the story of three people trying to survive in a city rife with the extreme fear of desperate times, and of the sorrowing cellist who plays undaunted in their midst. One day a shell lands in a bread line and kills twenty-two people as the cellist watches from a window in his flat. He vows to sit in the hollow where the mortar fell and play Albinoni's Adagio once a day for each of the twenty-two victims. The Adagio had been re-created from a fragment after the only extant score was firebombed in the Dresden Music Library, but the fact that it had been rebuilt by a different composer into something new and worthwhile gives the cellist hope. Meanwhile, Kenan steels himself for his weekly walk through the dangerous streets to collect water for his family on the other side of town, and Dragan, a man Kenan doesn't know, tries to make his way towards the source of the free meal he knows is waiting. Both men are almost paralyzed with fear, uncertain when the next shot will land on the bridges or streets they must cross, unwilling to talk to their old friends of what life was once like before divisions were unleashed on their city. Then there is "Arrow," the pseudonymous name of a gifted female sniper, who is asked to protect the cellist from a hidden shooter who is out to kill him as he plays his memorial to the victims. In this beautiful and unforgettable novel, Steven Galloway has taken an extraordinary, imaginative leap to create a story that speaks powerfully to the dignity and generosity of the human spirit under extraordinary duress.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *My Antonia* Willa Cather, 2024-01-02 A haunting tribute to the heroic pioneers who shaped the American Midwest This powerful novel by Willa Cather is considered to be one of her finest works and placed Cather in the forefront of women novelists. It tells the stories of several immigrant families who start new lives in America in rural Nebraska. This powerful tribute to the quiet heroism of those whose struggles and triumphs shaped the American Midwest highlights the role of women pioneers, in particular. Written in the style of a memoir penned by Antonia's tutor and friend, the book depicts one of the most memorable heroines in American literature, the spirited eldest daughter of a Czech immigrant family, whose calm, quite strength and robust spirit helped her survive the hardships and loneliness of life on the Nebraska prairie. The two form an enduring bond and through his chronicle, we watch Antonia shape the land while dealing with poverty, treachery, and tragedy. "No romantic novel ever written in America...is one half so beautiful as *My Antonia*." -H. L. Mencken Willa Cather (1873-1947) was an American writer best known for her novels of the Plains and for *One of Ours*, a novel set in World War I, for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923. She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1943 and received the gold medal for fiction from the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1944, an award given once a decade for an author's total accomplishments. By the time of her death she had written twelve novels, five books of short stories, and a collection of poetry.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *Born a Crime* Trevor Noah, 2016-11-15 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • More than one million copies sold! A "brilliant" (Lupita Nyong'o, Time), "poignant" (Entertainment Weekly), "soul-nourishing" (USA Today) memoir about coming of age during the twilight of apartheid "Noah's childhood stories are told with all the hilarity and intellect that characterizes his comedy, while illuminating a dark and brutal period in South Africa's history that must never be forgotten."—Esquire Winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor and an NAACP Image Award • Named one of the best books of the year by The New York Times, USA Today, San Francisco Chronicle, NPR, Esquire, Newsday, and Booklist Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find

himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Things They Carried** Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Into the Wild** Jon Krakauer, 2009-09-22 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. This is the unforgettable story of how Christopher Johnson McCandless came to die. It may be nonfiction, but *Into the Wild* is a mystery of the highest order. —Entertainment Weekly McCandless had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Not long after, he was dead. *Into the Wild* is the mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention. Immediately after graduating from college in 1991, McCandless had roamed through the West and Southwest on a vision quest like those made by his heroes Jack London and John Muir. In the Mojave Desert he abandoned his car, stripped it of its license plates, and burned all of his cash. He would give himself a new name, Alexander Supertramp, and, unencumbered by money and belongings, he would be free to wallow in the raw, unfiltered experiences that nature presented. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw the maps away. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild. Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless. When McCandless's innocent mistakes turn out to be irreversible and fatal, he becomes the stuff of tabloid headlines and is dismissed for his naiveté, pretensions, and hubris. He is said to have had a death wish but wanting to die is a very different thing from being compelled to look over the edge. Krakauer brings McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows, and the peril, adversity, and renunciation sought by this enigmatic young man are illuminated with a rare understanding—and not an ounce of sentimentality. *Into the Wild* is a tour de force. The power and luminosity of Jon Krakauer's storytelling blaze through every page.

**the kite runner sparknotes: East of Eden** John Steinbeck, 2002-02-05 A masterpiece of Biblical scope, and the magnum opus of one of America's most enduring authors, in a commemorative hardcover edition In his journal, Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck called *East of Eden* the first book, and indeed it has the primordial power and simplicity of myth. Set in the rich



farmland of California's Salinas Valley, this sprawling and often brutal novel follows the intertwined destinies of two families—the Trasks and the Hamiltons—whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel. The masterpiece of Steinbeck's later years, *East of Eden* is a work in which Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love's absence. Adapted for the 1955 film directed by Elia Kazan introducing James Dean, and read by thousands as the book that brought Oprah's Book Club back, *East of Eden* has remained vitally present in American culture for over half a century.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys, 1992 A considerable tour de force by any standard. ?New York Times Book Review

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 "A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Other Wes Moore* Wes Moore, 2011-01-11 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the governor of Maryland, the "compassionate" (People), "startling" (Baltimore Sun), "moving" (Chicago Tribune) true story of two kids with the same name: One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his. In December 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a local student who had just received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran a series of articles about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a spectacularly botched armed robbery. The police were still hunting for two of the suspects who had gone on the lam, a pair of brothers. One was named Wes Moore. Wes just couldn't shake off the unsettling coincidence, or the inkling that the two shared much more than space in the same newspaper. After following the story of the robbery, the manhunt, and the trial to its conclusion, he wrote a letter to the other Wes, now a convicted murderer serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. His letter tentatively asked the questions that had been haunting him: Who are you? How did this happen? That letter led to a correspondence and relationship that have lasted for several years. Over dozens of letters and prison visits, Wes discovered that the other Wes had had a life not unlike his own: Both had had difficult childhoods, both were fatherless; they'd hung out on similar corners with similar crews, and both had run into trouble with the police. At each stage of their young lives they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies. Told in alternating dramatic narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *In Cold Blood* Truman Capote, 2013-02-19 Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time From the Modern Library's new set of beautifully repackaged hardcover classics by Truman Capote—also available are *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (in one volume), *Portraits and Observations*, and *The Complete Stories* Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, created a sensation when it was first

published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the “new journalism.” Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. “I thought he was a very nice gentleman,” he says of Herb Clutter. “Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat.” Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers’ flight, Capote’s account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (A New Verse Translation) , 2008-11-17 One of the earliest great stories of English literature after *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain* is the strange tale of a green knight on a green horse, who rudely interrupts King Arthur's Round Table festivities one Yuletide, challenging the knights to a wager. Simon Armitage, one of Britain's leading poets, has produced an inventive and groundbreaking translation that helps liberate *Gawain* from academia (*Sunday Telegraph*?).

**the kite runner sparknotes:** Thirteen Reasons Why Jay Asher, 2011-06-14 THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER \*\*THE BOOK THAT STARTED IT ALL, NOW A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES\*\* “Eerie, beautiful, and devastating.” —Chicago Tribune “A stealthy hit with staying power. . . . thriller-like pacing.” —The New York Times “Thirteen Reasons Why will leave you with chills long after you have finished reading.” —Amber Gibson, NPR’s “All Things Considered” You can’t stop the future. You can’t rewind the past. The only way to learn the secret . . . is to press play. Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why. Clay spends the night crisscrossing his town with Hannah as his guide. He becomes a firsthand witness to Hannah's pain, and as he follows Hannah’s recorded words throughout his town, what he discovers changes his life forever. Need to talk? Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) anytime if you are in the United States. It’s free and confidential. Find more resources at [13reasonswhy.info](http://13reasonswhy.info). Find out how you can help someone in crisis at [bethe1to.com](http://bethe1to.com).

**the kite runner sparknotes:** Lord of the Flies William Golding, 2012-09-20 A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, so their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most celebrated and widely read of modern classics. Now fully revised and updated, this educational edition includes chapter summaries, comprehension questions, discussion points, classroom activities, a biographical profile of Golding, historical context relevant to the novel and an essay on *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding entitled 'Fable'. Aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, it also includes a section on literary theory for advanced or A-level students. The educational edition encourages original and independent thinking while guiding the student through the text - ideal for use in the classroom and at home.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** White Noise Don DeLillo, 1999-06-01 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • An “eerie, brilliant, and touching” (*The New York Times*) modern classic about mass culture and the numbing effects of technology. “Tremendously funny . . . A stunning performance from one of our most intelligent novelists.”—*The New Republic* The inspiration for the award-winning major motion picture starring Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig Jack Gladney teaches Hitler Studies at a liberal arts college in Middle America where his colleagues include New York expatriates who want to immerse themselves in “American magic and dread.” Jack and his fourth wife, Babette, bound by their love, fear of death, and four ultramodern offspring, navigate the usual

rocky passages of family life to the background babble of brand-name consumerism. Then a lethal black chemical cloud floats over their lives, an “airborne toxic event” unleashed by an industrial accident. The menacing cloud is a more urgent and visible version of the “white noise” engulfing the Gladney family—radio transmissions, sirens, microwaves, ultrasonic appliances, and TV murmurings—pulsing with life, yet suggesting something ominous.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Great Expectations** Charles Dickens, 2010-05-01

**the kite runner sparknotes: Paper Towns** John Green, 2013 Quentin Jacobson has spent a lifetime loving Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs into his life - dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge - he follows. After their all-nighter ends, Q arrives at school to discover that Margo has disappeared.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Black Boy [Seventy-fifth Anniversary Edition]** Richard Wright, 2020-02-18 A special 75th anniversary edition of Richard Wright's powerful and unforgettable memoir, with a new foreword by John Edgar Wideman and an afterword by Malcolm Wright, the author's grandson. When it exploded onto the literary scene in 1945, *Black Boy* was both praised and condemned. Orville Prescott of the New York Times wrote that “if enough such books are written, if enough millions of people read them maybe, someday, in the fullness of time, there will be a greater understanding and a more true democracy.” Yet from 1975 to 1978, *Black Boy* was banned in schools throughout the United States for “obscenity” and “instigating hatred between the races.” Wright's once controversial, now celebrated autobiography measures the raw brutality of the Jim Crow South against the sheer desperate will it took to survive as a Black boy. Enduring poverty, hunger, fear, abuse, and hatred while growing up in the woods of Mississippi, Wright lied, stole, and raged at those around him—whites indifferent, pitying, or cruel and Blacks resentful of anyone trying to rise above their circumstances. Desperate for a different way of life, he headed north, eventually arriving in Chicago, where he forged a new path and began his career as a writer. At the end of *Black Boy*, Wright sits poised with pencil in hand, determined to “hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo.” Seventy-five years later, his words continue to reverberate. “To read *Black Boy* is to stare into the heart of darkness,” John Edgar Wideman writes in his foreword. “Not the dark heart Conrad searched for in Congo jungles but the beating heart I bear.” One of the great American memoirs, Wright's account is a poignant record of struggle and endurance—a seminal literary work that illuminates our own time.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Wild Thorns** Salar Khalifeh, 2023-08-01 In this tense modern literary classic, acclaimed Palestinian author Sahar Khalifeh depicts the humiliation, bitter resignation and determined resistance of Palestinians under Israeli military occupation. First published in 1976, *Wild Thorns* was the first Arab novel to offer a glimpse of everyday life under Israeli occupation. With uncompromising honesty, Khalifeh pleads elegantly for survival in the face of oppression.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Song of the Hummingbird** Graciela Limón, 1996-04-30 An Aztec princess describes the Spanish conquest of Mexico. She is Huitzitzlin, 82, of the court of Montezuma and she tells her tale to a priest so history will know who the Aztecs really were. By the author of *The Memories of Ana Calderon*.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears** Dinaw Mengestu, 2007-03-01 Seventeen years ago, Sepha Stephanos fled the Ethiopian Revolution for a new start in the United States. Now he finds himself running a failing grocery store in a poor African-American section of Washington, D.C., his only companions two fellow African immigrants who share his bitter nostalgia and longing for his home continent. Years ago and worlds away Sepha could never have imagined a life of such isolation. As his environment begins to change, hope comes in the form of a friendship with new neighbors Judith and Naomi, a white woman and her biracial daughter. But when a series of racial incidents disturbs the community, Sepha may lose everything all over again. Watch a QuickTime interview with Dinaw Mengestu about this book.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Anthem** Ayn Rand, 2021-07-07 About this Edition This 2021-2022 Digital Student Edition of Ayn Rand's *Anthem* was created for teachers and students receiving free

novels from the Ayn Rand Institute, and includes a historic Q&A with Ayn Rand that cannot be found in any other edition of *Anthem*. In this Q&A from 1979, Rand responds to questions about *Anthem* sent to her by a high school classroom. About *Anthem* *Anthem* is Ayn Rand's "hymn to man's ego." It is the story of one man's rebellion against a totalitarian, collectivist society. Equality 7-2521 is a young man who yearns to understand "the Science of Things." But he lives in a bleak, dystopian future where independent thought is a crime and where science and technology have regressed to primitive levels. All expressions of individualism have been suppressed in the world of *Anthem*; personal possessions are nonexistent, individual preferences are condemned as sinful and romantic love is forbidden. Obedience to the collective is so deeply ingrained that the very word "I" has been erased from the language. In pursuit of his quest for knowledge, Equality 7-2521 struggles to answer the questions that burn within him — questions that ultimately lead him to uncover the mystery behind his society's downfall and to find the key to a future of freedom and progress. *Anthem* anticipates the theme of Rand's first best seller, *The Fountainhead*, which she stated as "individualism versus collectivism, not in politics, but in man's soul."

**the kite runner sparknotes: The War of the Worlds Illustrated** H G Wells, 2021-03-30 *The War of the Worlds* is a science fiction novel by English author H. G. Wells, first serialised in 1897 by *Pearson's Magazine* in the UK and by *Cosmopolitan* magazine in the US. The novel's first appearance in hardcover was in 1898 from publisher William Heinemann of London. Written between 1895 and 1897, it is one of the earliest stories to detail a conflict between mankind and an extraterrestrial race. The novel is the first-person narrative of both an unnamed protagonist in Surrey and of his younger brother in London as southern England is invaded by Martians. The novel is one of the most commented-on works in the science fiction canon.

**the kite runner sparknotes: A Case of Exploding Mangoes** Mohammed Hanif, 2010-10-29 Teasing, provocative, and very funny, Mohammed Hanif's debut novel takes one of the subcontinent's enduring mysteries and out if it spins a tale as rich and colourful as a beggar's dream. Why did a Hercules C130, the world's sturdiest plane, carrying Pakistan's military dictator General Zia ul Haq, go down on 17 August, 1988? Was it because of: 1. Mechanical failure 2. Human error 3. The CIA's impatience 4. A blind woman's curse 5. Generals not happy with their pension plans 6. The mango season Or could it be your narrator, Ali Shigri? Here are the facts: • A military dictator reads the Quran every morning as if it was his daily horoscope. • Under Officer Ali Shigri carries a deadly message on the tip of his sword. • His friend Obaid answers all life's questions with a splash of eau de cologne and a quote from Rilke. • A crow has crossed the Pakistani border illegally. As young Shigri moves from a mosque hall to his military barracks before ending up in a Mughal dungeon, there are questions that haunt him: What does it mean to betray someone and still love them? How many names does Allah really have? Who killed his father, Colonel Shigri? Who will kill his killers? And where the hell has Obaid disappeared to?

**the kite runner sparknotes: A Study Guide for Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner** Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A Study Guide for Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Literary News For Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Literary News For Students* for all of your research needs.

**the kite runner sparknotes: The Namesake** Jhumpa Lahiri, 2023-04-13 The incredible bestselling first novel from Pulitzer Prize- winning author, Jhumpa Lahiri. 'The kind of writer who makes you want to grab the next person and say Read this!' Amy Tan 'When her grandmother learned of Ashima's pregnancy, she was particularly thrilled at the prospect of naming the family's first sahib. And so Ashima and Ashoke have agreed to put off the decision of what to name the baby until a letter comes...' For now, the label on his hospital cot reads simply BABY BOY GANGULI. But as time passes and still no letter arrives from India, American bureaucracy takes over and demands that 'baby boy Ganguli' be given a name. In a panic, his father decides to nickname him 'Gogol' - after his favourite writer. Brought up as an Indian in suburban America, Gogol Ganguli soon finds

himself itching to cast off his awkward name, just as he longs to leave behind the inherited values of his Bengali parents. And so he sets off on his own path through life, a path strewn with conflicting loyalties, love and loss... Spanning three decades and crossing continents, Jhumpa Lahiri's debut novel is a triumph of humane story-telling. Elegant, subtle and moving, *The Namesake* is for everyone who loved the clarity, sympathy and grace of Lahiri's Pulitzer Prize-winning debut story collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Territory* Sarah Govett, 2015-05-14 Winner Trinity Schools Book Award 2018 Winner Gateshead YA Book Prize 'I love reading Sarah Govett - she's whip-smart, funny and by plugging into the hope and energy of the youth makes me feel better about these dark times.' Dame Emma Thompson Noa Blake is just another normal 15 year old with exams looming. Except in *The Territory* normal isn't normal. The richest children have a node on the back of their necks and can download information, bypassing the need to study. In a flooded world of dwindling resources, Noa and the other 'Norms' have their work cut out even to compete. And competing is everything - because anybody who fails the exams will be shipped off to the Wetlands, which means a life of misery, if not certain death. But how to focus when your heart is being torn in two directions at once? 'Truly heart wrenching! ... the 1984 of our time' *The Guardian* online 'Gripping dystopia with a keen political edge' Imogen Russell Williams, *Metro* 'This is a truly exceptional novel, exciting, gripping and intense' BookTrust 'pacy dystopian fantasy thriller' *Telegraph's* Best YA Books of 2015 'thrilling and thought-provoking' *The Times* 'powerful and shocking' *Children's Books Ireland* 'a terrific book. It simply is.' Bookwitch 'brilliant' *Teen Librarian* 'Brilliantly plotted, utterly gripping' Gemma Malley (*The Declaration*) One of *The Telegraph's* best YA books of 2015

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* Harper Lee, 2014-07-08 Voted America's Best-Loved Novel in PBS's *The Great American Read* Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South—and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred One of the most cherished stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *The Kitemaker* Ruskin Bond, 2011-01-24 Ruskin Bond wrote his first short story, 'Untouchable', at the age of sixteen in 1950. Since then he has written over a hundred stories, including the classics 'A Face in the Dark', 'The Kitemaker', 'The Tunnel' and 'Time Stops at Shamli'. Two of his autobiographical works, 'Life with Father' and 'My Father's Last Letter', are also included in this selection. Filled with characteristic warmth, gentle humour and keen observations on daily life, this collection brings together some of the finest short fiction by one of India's best-loved authors.

**the kite runner sparknotes:** *Ohio* Stephen Markley, 2019-06-04 "Extraordinary...beautifully precise...[an] earnestly ambitious debut." —*The New York Times* Book Review "A wild, angry, and devastating masterpiece of a book." —NPR "[A] descendent of the Dickensian 'social novel' by way of Jonathan Franzen: epic fiction that lays bare contemporary culture clashes, showing us who we are and how we got here." —O, *The Oprah Magazine* "A book that has stayed with me ever since I put it down." —Seth Meyers, host of *Late Night with Seth Meyers* One sweltering night in 2013, four former high school classmates converge on their hometown in northeastern Ohio. There's Bill Ashcraft, a passionate, drug-abusing young activist whose flailing ambitions have taken him from Cambodia to Zuccotti Park to post-BP New Orleans, and now back home with a mysterious package strapped to the undercarriage of his truck; Stacey Moore, a doctoral candidate reluctantly confronting her family and the mother of her best friend and first love, whose disappearance spurs the mystery at the heart of the novel; Dan Eaton, a shy veteran of three tours in Iraq, home for a dinner date with the high school sweetheart he's tried desperately to forget; and the beautiful,

fragile Tina Ross, whose rendezvous with the washed-up captain of the football team triggers the novel's shocking climax. Set over the course of a single evening, *Ohio* toggles between the perspectives of these unforgettable characters as they unearth dark secrets, revisit old regrets and uncover—and compound—bitter betrayals. Before the evening is through, these narratives converge masterfully to reveal a mystery so dark and shocking it will take your breath away.

**the kite runner sparknotes: Stranger in a Strange Land** Robert A. Heinlein, 2014-06-05 The original uncut edition of *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND* by Hugo Award winner Robert A. Heinlein - one of the most beloved, celebrated science-fiction novels of all time. Epic, ambitious and entertaining, *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND* caused controversy and uproar when it was first published and is still topical and challenging today. Twenty-five years ago, the first manned mission to Mars was lost, and all hands presumed dead. But someone survived... Born on the doomed spaceship and raised by the Martians who saved his life, Valentine Michael Smith has never seen a human being until the day a second expedition to Mars discovers him. Upon his return to Earth, a young nurse named Jill Boardman sneaks into Smith's hospital room and shares a glass of water with him, a simple act for her but a sacred ritual on Mars. Now, connected by an incredible bond, Smith, Jill and a writer named Jubal must fight to protect a right we all take for granted: the right to love.

### **The Kite Runner: Full Book Summary | SparkNotes**

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