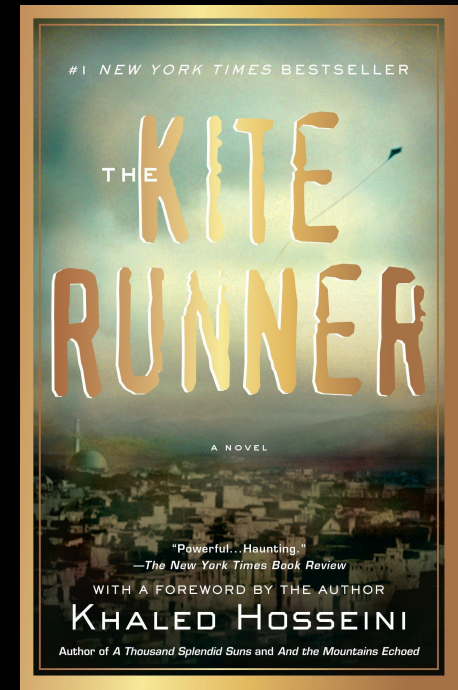


Book Talk Presentation



TITLE: The Kite Runner

AUTHOR: Khaled Hosseini

Premise

The premise of the story pretty much talks about Amir, a Sunni Muslim recalling his traumatic childhood past and its aftereffects which is twenty-six years before. He is trying to find his place in the world and the reason for his existence. It starts with Amir living a comfortable life with his father, Baba. He has two servants Ali and his son, Hassan. Hassan who is Amir close friend is also consider a Hazaras, an ethnic minority. One day, when Amir and Hassan are playing, they run into three boys, Assef, Wali, and Kamal. Assef threatens to beat up Amir for hanging around with a Hazara, but Hassan uses his slingshot to stop Assef. The story then skips to winter, it is when a kite-tournament is taking place. Boys cover their kite strings in glass and battle to see who can sever the string of the opposing kite. When a kite loses, the boys chase and retrieve it, called kite running. Amir really wants to win this race as he wants to be noticed by his father, he wanted to grab his attention. It was an annual race, one that starts in the icy season when schools are closed. Amir never won this race and he knows that if he did, he would grab his father's attention. When Amir wins this race, Hassan sets off to fetch the losing kite. Amir, noticing Hassan gone then tries to find him, only to end up in an alley finding him being raped by the three boys Assef, Wali, and Kamal. Amir then runs away and when Hassan returns, Amir pretends he never sees anything. Amir right then and there is filled with guilt for not saying anything to his friend there. He sold his friend just to grab his father's attention. This is just one of many mistakes that Amir makes, where his friends are always there for him when he needs them but, when they need him, he never shows up.

An example of Kite Running



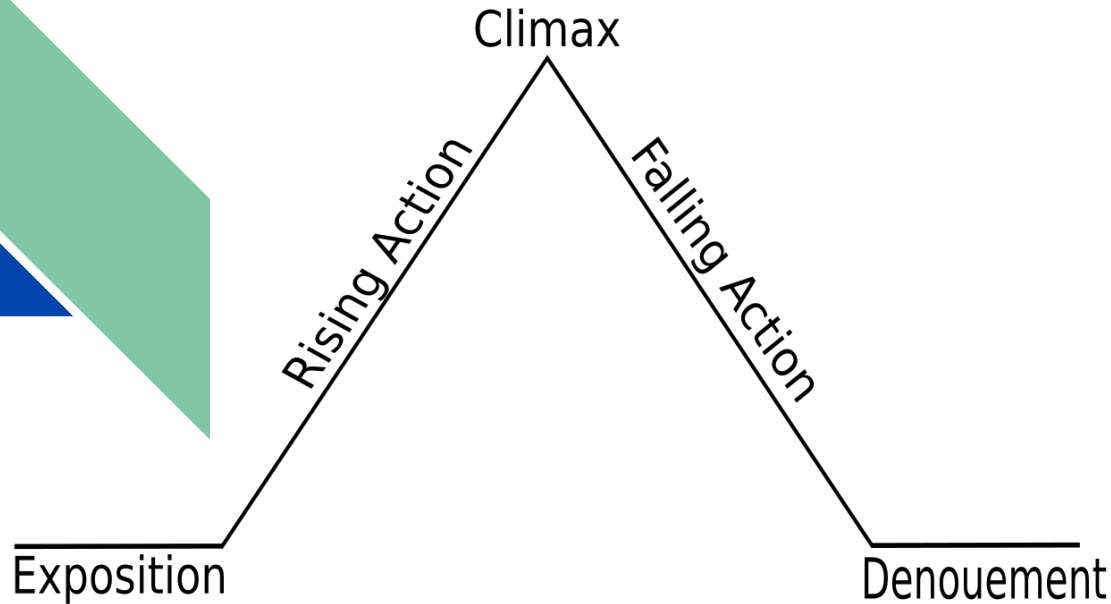
Narrator

The narrator and the reader's perspective in which the story is told from the first-person perspective. It is told from what Amir sees, hears, and especially his thoughts. The narrator pretty much tells us what Amir is thinking or how he thinks of what is happening in his eyes. This affects the story because we don't get to see any third-person perspective or the other character's perspective, only Amir. We can only conclude things based on only Amir's information, not anything else. The attitude that the narrator has is a serious, intense type of attitude. He uses serious and strict wording to fill the story with suspense and tension. For example, at the end of chapter five, "*that was the winter that Hassan stopped smiling.*" This example clearly shows foreshadowing but it gives the story more tension as we, the reader, know that this foreshadowing is clearly stating that something is clearly going to happen after that winter. This attitude also shows the internal struggle that Amir has. It shows that he knows the mistakes he made. Every time he sees Hassan he always has a headache as he always remembers the guilt of running away, the guilt of selling his friend just so he can gain his father's attention. The serious and intense attitude the narrator provides emphasizes the guilt Amir feels and the consequences he suffers from them.

The headache puts emphasis of the internal struggle Amir has.



Structure



Introduction:

The story starts off by showing the difference between Amir and Baba and their servants Ali and Hassan. It shows the disparity between Amir and Baba who are wealthy, respectable citizens while Ali and Hassan are perceived to be people of the lower class.

Rising Action:

It was when Amir and his family were forced out of Afghanistan by the Soviet invasion. This is where he flees to America and rebuilds his life until an old friend visit him so he can amend his past.

Climax:

This is when Amir locates Sohrab, an orphaned son of his childhood friend Hassan. Learning that Hassan's murder was by the hands of the Taliban, he returns to Afghanistan to save the boy.

Falling Action:

This is where Amir saves Sohrab from a life of physical and sexual abuse and how he struggles to learn how he and Sohrab can recover from the trauma they endure.

Conclusion:

It left off with Amir being able to relieve his guilt through defeating and rescuing Sohrab from Assef, and committing to Sohrab saying that he is always loyal to him, which he displayed a kite running to him saying that he would do it "a thousand times over."

Opinions

The reason why I pick this book up is because of the summary it has. The summary intrigued me and so I read the book. The book is tragic, it showed that the main character is going to suffer from something, whether it is by an outside force or an internal force of his action. I love tragic stories, not that because it shows someone suffering instead, it's because it shows the growth of the character. I love seeing how the character grows into a more capable person. I love seeing how the main character notices that nothing is pulling him/her down and that he can overcome their shackles, the shackles that brought them down in the beginning. I especially love that they try to redeem themselves. This is the kind of story I love and *The Kite Runner* shown that kind of story. Its genre was focused on the drama and classical types of books. I recommend this book to people who love drama and classical book, especially to those who love tragedy and redemption stories.

Words I don't understand

There were many words that I don't understand as they were in Arabic.

-***ahesta boro*** Wedding song.

-***ahmaq*** Fool, idiot.

-***agha*** Mister; great lord.

-***bakhshesh*** Forgiveness.

-***dil-roba*** Very beautiful.

-***dostet darum*** I love you.

Section 3: READ-ALoud -Chapter 1

December 2001 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 harellipped 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 and changed everything. And made me what I am today.