

English 12 CP/ Level II
Summer Reading 2017-2018

This summer, you are required to read two books for English: *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. There are multiple pieces to each of the novel assignments, so please read carefully to ensure the assignments are fully complete.

Assignments will be submitted on Monday, August 28, 2017.

Included in your final submission should be the following (explanations are provided for each in the packet):

<i>Tuesdays with Morrie:</i>	Reflections Dear Teachers
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Kite Collage Reflection (attached to the back of the kite)

Tuesdays with Morrie

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.

For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger?

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

Reflections on *Morrie*

Your task is to choose three (3) Tuesday lessons and to write a reflection for each one which will contain two parts.

1. You need to summarize the lesson presented in that particular chapter.
2. You need to reflect on your personal “Morrie,” someone you have known (teachers, relatives, coaches, mentors) who has exhibited the lesson Morrie was teaching Mitch on that particular Tuesday.
3. You will center the title (which Tuesday you have chosen- at the top/centered)

Each reflection should be at least two paragraphs. (Please remember that a good paragraph should be 8-12 sentences long.)

Dear Teachers: This section will have the title Dear Teachers at the top of the page/centered

Write a poem of tribute to three (3) teachers/coaches/mentors/family members to whom you are thankful. These are poems and should follow the format below.

To [name of specific person]

My [role the person played]

Who [describe the person’s influence...this line should be repeated 5-6 times]

I say [what you would say to the person now]

Example:

Dear Teachers

To Sr. Pat Marnien.

My senior English teacher.

Who was patient when I did not understand how to write an introduction.

Who spent countless hours with me before and after school.

Who encouraged me when it seemed like I would never figure out how to write a paper.

Who never let me give up on myself.

Who, in the end, made sure that I understood that writing wasn’t the only thing that I was to learn in high school.

I say you are the reason that I can write a paper today.

I say you taught me that believing in yourself is half the battle!

To Mr. Hunt

My swimming coach and mentor

Who taught me to breathe not just in

The pool but in life as well.

Who pushed me to my limits

And embraced my successes like they were his own.

Whose yells, and whistles, and “take your marks”

Helped mold me into the man I am today.

I say thank you a thousand times.

To Myra Livingston

My Mimi and my friend.

Who always took the time to listen

When my parents were busy

Who taught me the joy of cooking and

Licking the spoon as she said good cooks must

Who never was judgmental and

Who gave me unconditional love.

I say thank you,

And I love you.

Your reflections as well as your poems (6 different pieces of paper) are to be stapled with a cover sheet with a centered MLA heading.

The Kite Runner

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Before reading the novel, please read the information about Afghanistan. Although the travesties of Afghanistan are certainly a focal point in the news, most people in the West are not well-educated about the geography or the tumultuous and complex history of the Afghani culture. The information attached will give you a more pointed perspective and modest understanding of the complexity of the situation the characters face. This was the first Afghani story published in English, and although it is fiction, the places are real and the events realistically portrayed.

***The Kite Runner* Background Information**

Although Afghanistan is in the news almost daily, to truly even attempt to understand the complexity of the situation, information about the ethnic groups of Afghanistan and the harsh changes incurred by the Taliban are necessary to have a deeper understanding of the novel. Take the time to read the background information before reading the novel and again after completion and you will acquire a more profound understanding of Amir's problems and cultural dilemmas.

Kite-running (Guidaran Bazi) has been a favorite pastime in Afghanistan for the last 100 years, but there are few on the streets of Kabul that can forget the terror of living under the Taliban regime for so many years. Under Taliban rule, if you were caught with a kite, many times you would be beaten and the spool would be destroyed.

Kite-running is a two-person affair, with one person called the "charka gir" and the other called the "gudiparan baz." The charka gir is in charge of holding the wooden kite spool, around which the wire, or "tar" is wound. The second person, called the "gudiparan baz" actually is in control of the movement of the kite in the air. Kite flyers stand on tops of buildings, fighting with kites from all over the city. The object is to strike down the kite of your opponent with the string of your kite, after which you will be called the winner. The strings are often made with razor wire which gives the sharpness to cut down other kites. After an opponent's kite is set free, it flutters away into the wind where it is usually picked up by the local children, who fly it the next day as their own.

Kites are usually made of either extremely fragile tissue paper, or heavier more durable mylar fabric. They come in many colors, shapes, and sizes. Kites range in price depending on the size and materials used to make the kite. For a small, simple, child sized kite, the price starts at just a few cents. For large, elaborate, colorful kites, many with dangling adornments, the price can cost as much as (2 to 100) Afghanis, or \$2.00 US.

Afghanistan is ethnically diverse. There are approximately 30 million people living in this country. Pashtu and Dari are considered the official languages of this country. About 99% of the country is Muslim. The major ethnic groups are as follows:

PASHTUNS: Pashtuns are the majority ethnic group in Afghanistan comprising about 42% of the population. They are highest on the social ladder and dominate governmental bodies. Pashtu is their native language. They consist mainly of Sunni Muslims.

TAJIKS: Tajiks account for 27% of the population. They are a group that is considered to have low income and like many Hazaras, they are not the highest on the social ladder.

HAZARAS: The Hazara ethnic group makes up 9% of the population. Most are Shi'ite Muslims. The Hazaras are considered to be on the lower end of the socio-economic scale. As presented in the novel *The Kite Runner*, they are often servants, housekeepers, gardeners and cooks to the higher classes.

The History of Afghanistan during the Time of *The Kite Runner*

The Kite Runner deals with the country of Afghanistan from the 1970s to the year 2002. Like all places, Afghanistan has a long and complicated history, but it came to international attention only after the coup of 1973. In order to orient ourselves, let us look The nation is located in Central Asia and is made up of thirty-four provinces. The country's capital is Kabul, which is also the capital of the northeast province of the same name. Afghanistan means "Land of Afghan," Afghan being a name the Pashtun majority used to describe themselves starting before the year 1000. It is bordered by Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and for a short distance, China.

From 1933-1973, Afghanistan was a monarchy ruled by King Zahir Shah. On July 17, 1973, when the king was on vacation, Mohammad Daoud Khan seized power. Mohammad Daoud Khan was Zahir Shah's cousin and a former Prime Minister of Afghanistan. The military coup was nearly bloodless, but as we see through Amir's story, it was still a frightening time for the people of Kabul who heard rioting and shooting in the streets. For six years, Mohammad Daoud Khan was President and Prime Minister of Afghanistan. Then, on April 27, 1978, he was violently overthrown by the PDPA, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Daoud was killed in the coup along with most of his family. Even though Afghanistan had long insisted on maintaining its autonomy.

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The PDPA instituted many political and social reforms in Afghanistan, including abolishing religious and traditional customs. These reforms incensed groups of Afghans who believed in adherence to traditional and religious laws. These factions began to challenge the government so rigorously that in 1979, the Soviet Army entered Afghanistan, beginning an occupation that would last a decade. This is the historical point in *The Kite Runner* when Baba and Amir leave Afghanistan. Throughout the ten years of Soviet occupation, internal Muslim forces put up a resistance. Farid and his father are examples in *The Kite Runner* of these *mujahedins* or men engaged in war on the side of Islam. The United States was among the countries that supported the resistance, because of its own anti-Soviet policies. When the Soviet Troops finally withdrew in 1989, Afghanistan remained under PDPA for three more years. Then in 1992, in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and therefore Soviet support for the government, the *mujahedin* finally won Afghanistan and converted it to an Islamic State.

In the years following Soviet withdrawal, there was a great deal of infighting among rival militias, making everyday life in Afghanistan unsafe. In *The Kite Runner*, Rahim Khan describes the fear in Kabul during this time. He remembers, "The infighting between the factions was fierce and no one knew if they would live to see the end of the day. Our ears became accustomed to the rumble of gunfire, our eyes familiar with the sight of men digging bodies out of piles of rubble. Kabul in those days ... Was as close as you could get to that proverbial hell on earth." Then in 1996, the Taliban took control of Kabul. After so many years of insecurity and violence, the people welcomed the takeover. Rahim Khan remembers, "... We all celebrated in 1996 when the Taliban rolled in and put an end to the daily fighting." The Taliban were a group of Pashtun supremacists who banded together and took almost complete control of the country. Despite their warm initial reception, they soon made life in Afghanistan dangerous again. Being Sunni fundamentalists supremacists, they systematically massacred Shiites including the Hazara people. They also enacted fundamentalist laws, most famously those banning music and dance, and those severely restricting women's rights. In *The Kite Runner*, we see how the Taliban used fear and violence to control the people of Afghanistan, for example at the frequent executions in Ghazi Stadium.

After the events of September 11, 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban. The end of *The Kite Runner* occurs in 2002, when a provisional government was in place. It was not until 2004 that the current president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, was elected. Today, there are countless Afghan refugees living in other parts of the world, just like Amir and his family. For those Afghans living in Afghanistan, life is still dangerous. In the South, conflict continues to rage on and the Taliban have managed to reemerge. According to Amnesty International's 2007 report, violence and human rights abuses are still a common reality in Afghanistan due to weak governance.

Taliban Rules

The Taliban Rules are specific to both male and female. The following is an incomplete list but give an idea of the rigidness of its law.

Rules Regarding Females

1. Females may not work outside the home, including teachers, engineers, and doctors.
2. Females may not participate in any activity outside the home unless accompanied by a close male relative, such as a father, brother, or husband.
3. Females may not deal with male shopkeepers.
4. Females may not be treated by male doctors.
5. Females may not study at schools, universities.
6. Females must wear a long veil (burqua) which covers them from head to toe.
7. Females whose ankles are visible will be whipped in public.
8. Females may not talk to or shake hands with males who are not in their family.
9. Females may not laugh loudly.
10. Females may not wear high heel shoes. Men must never hear a woman's footsteps.
11. All home windows must be painted so females cannot be seen from outside their homes.
12. Females may not be filmed or photographed.
13. Females may not play sports or enter a sports center or club.

Rules Regarding all Afghans—male or female

1. NO ONE CAN LISTEN TO MUSIC
2. No one can watch movies, television, or videos.
3. No citizen of Afghanistan may have a non-Islamic name.
4. All men must wear Islamic clothes and a cap.
5. Men may not shave or trim their beards.
6. All Afghans must attend prayers 5 times daily.
7. No one may fly kites.
8. Anyone who carries objectionable literature will be shot.
9. All boy students must wear turbans.
10. No one may use the internet, including foreigners.
11. No burying of anyone who was killed by the Taliban. Bodies must remain in the streets as examples to other "wrongdoers."

*information from Amnesty International

The Kite Runner Project

You will create a kite-shaped collage that depicts the struggles of Amir, his family, and his culture. Make sure the title and author are somehow incorporated in the collage. Use materials of your choice whether that be cut poster board, a real kite frame, wherever your imagination takes you. On the back, glue a typed explanation of your choices or pictures, words or materials (200-250 words).

*****A note about the project.

This project has several requirements. Be sure you understand all of its components. This is not cut out a kite-shaped piece of paper with the title scribbled on and the word Afghanistan. There are no bare spaces on a collage. It must depict the struggles of Amir, his country, his family, the main ideas in the novel. Make sure this is not shoddy work. My suggestion is to complete this project long before school begins. It should be creative and thought provoking.