

MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following is a comprehensive list of discussion questions. Educators should feel free to use some or all of the questions depending on the audience. It is also recommended that learners do an initial read-through of the questions before viewing the film.

- 1.** What are some of the human rights issues or injustices that are portrayed in this film?
- 2.** What was happening politically in Afghanistan during the film?
- 3.** List some of the recurring themes of the film.
- 4.** In one of the opening scenes, we see Amir and Hassan returning home from a game of kite-fighting. The boys part ways and Amir walks up his redbrick driveway lined with trees and rosebushes towards his magnificent house; whereas Hassan walks towards a little mud hut. In what way does this scene set the stage for this film?
- 5.** Could Hassan be considered wealthier than Amir in some ways? Why or why not? Define wealth. What are some criteria we can use to measure one's personal inner wealth?
- 6.** A quote in the first chapter of *The Kite Runner* book was "Afghans like to say: Life goes on, unmindful or beginning, end...crisis or catharsis, moving forward like a slow dusty caravan of kochis (nomads)." How does this idea resonate throughout the film?
- 7.** How did war, conflict and human rights abuse change the characters of the book?
- 8.** Who chose to stay in Afghanistan during the Soviet Invasion? Who chose to flee? Who did not have a choice? Why?
- 9.** Did Amir and Baba Jan become internally displaced peoples? Refugees? Or both? What rights were taken away from them when they had to leave their home? (In-depth study of IDP's and Refugees can be found in LESSON 5)
- 10.** What kind of resettlement process did Baba and Amir have to go through? What kind of resettlement process did some of the other characters endure?
- 11.** When Amir failed Hassan, would you consider his action a human rights abuse? Why?
- 12.** What did Rahim Khan mean when he said to Amir, "there is a way to be good again"? Was it important for Amir to redeem himself? Why? Are we always able to reconcile with past mistakes or past human rights abuses? Is it important to do so? Why?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

13. How do pride and privilege affect Amir and his actions?

14. Baba says to Amir “there is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft...When you kill a man, you steal a life. You steal his wife’s right to her husband, his children’s right to their father. When you tell a lie, you steal someone’s right to the truth...There is no act more wretched than stealing.” Do you agree with Baba? List some other rights that could be violated by stealing that Baba does not mention.

15. In the scene where Assef attacks Hassan, what rights did he steal from Hassan?

16. Assef says in the film to Amir, “Afghanistan is the land of Pashtuns. We are the true Afghans, not this Flat-Nose here. His people pollute our homeland. They dirty our blood.” How does Assef’s attitude compare to some of the individuals or groups we have learned about in our history classes? (the KKK, Hitler, etc) Can Assef’s attitude lead to human rights issues, such as hate crimes in our neighborhoods? How?

17. Baba says to Amir, “I grew up with Ali. My father took him in, loved him like his own son. Forty years Ali’s been with my family.” Yet the cycle continues where neither Ali nor Hassan could read or write and both eat Baba’s and Amir’s leftover food. In a society where individual roles are so defined and ingrained, how can one go about changing them? What responsibility do we have to break these unjust norms? How can we?