

Summer Reading Assignment

I'm so glad to have all of you as students again next year! After having read mostly short nonfiction in Humanities 101, it's time to return to fiction stories, novels, plays, and poems as you move on to AP Literature & Composition. This will be a rigorous course, and you will have the possibility of earning college credit with a high score on the AP English Literature & Composition exam at the end of the year. To reactivate and/or strengthen your fiction-reading skills and passion, please read *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, and complete the assignment outlined below **by the first day of school, which is Friday, September 5, 2025.**

For context, *The Kite Runner* takes place mainly in Afghanistan during the 1970s through the early 2000s. By immersing yourself in the introductory packet, you will become familiar with the cultural background of the writer and characters, as well as the significance of the time period & locations featured in the narrative. The plot begins in a period of relative peace and spans political upheavals and war, bringing to life the intersection of personal and political drama, ultimately illustrating both culturally specific and universal themes of gender inequality, class distinctions, abuse of power, friendship, responses to injustice, betrayal, atonement, redemption, and the conflict between modern and traditional values. This is a gripping story, and I must warn you that there is a potentially upsetting scene in which the protagonist is brutally assaulted. The scene is crucial to understanding the central character's motivations, as he navigates his way through an upper class boyhood in the politically turbulent landscape of Taliban-led Afghanistan to his economically struggling manhood in America. I am confident that you will become immersed in this finely crafted novel.

Please complete the assignment described below as you read. I strongly recommend that you start reading as soon as possible, and read a bit each day. There will be an assessment on the book shortly after we return to school. The book is too long to wait until the last minute, so try to let yourself slip into the world of the novel, and enjoy!

Due Date: September 5, 2025

How to Submit:

Ms. Metsch-Ampel's **Google Classroom page**
AP Lit. & Comp. Summer Assignment 2025
Google Classroom page
Google Classroom CODE: refzdvue

PART I: Create a Google Doc

Start a new Google Doc with the MLA heading, as shown below. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font. Create 1-inch margins and double-space the document.

Your name
Ms. Metsch-Ampel
AP Literature & Composition
Date

Summer Assignment: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini

PART II: Short Slides Presentation

View the slides presentation at the link below, and **on the Google Doc you started, write three important things you learned from the slides.**

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/2539784/> (The voice is obviously computer generated, but the slides give a good preview into important aspects of the book, and this will make it easier for you to enter the world of the novel.)

PART III: Glossary & Additional Background Information

- Next, read the packet distributed in school, which will provide context for more deeply understanding the characters' cultures, and the times and locations in which the story takes place. If you did not get one in school, please call the office to make arrangements to get one.
- As you read, refer back to the packet as much as you need to for clarification. The glossary may be especially helpful. **DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP:** Your knowledge will be part of the assessment in September.

PART IV: Author Research

Before beginning to read the book, do some research on the author and answer the questions below. (Do not simply read the information on the book cover). Type your responses in complete sentences using formal spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

- Who is the author?
- What are his or her qualifications for writing on this subject?
- What other relevant and/or interesting information about the author did you find? Write at least three things, and cite your sources.

Part V: Dialectical Journal

Once you have completed your research about the author, read the book and select 10 meaningful passages that resonate with you for some reason. In the appropriate column (as shown in the example), type your selected passages, a paraphrase, and analysis or reactions to the passage. (The passages can be a few sentences or a paragraph in length, and you should aim to take quotations from the beginning, middle, and end of the book, not just from the beginning.) Follow these directions, and **type everything, as shown in the example.**

1. **First column:** write out the entire passage (quotation) **and include the page number.**
 2. **Second column:** paraphrase the passage. Provide context: what is happening before and after this passage appears in the text?
 3. **Third column:** analyze and respond to the passage in full sentences. What does the passage mean to you? How does it resonate for you? What symbolism do you see? Any interesting imagery? Figurative language? Why did you choose it? Examples:
 - Insights the passage gives you
 - Questions the passages raises for you
 - Powerful character actions or descriptions
 - Vivid imagery, figurative language, symbolism
 - Examples of beautiful or powerful writing and the emotions and/or thoughts they evoke
- **Your response should be longer than the selected quotation.** Responses should be typed, written in complete sentences, and inserted in the appropriate place in your dialectical journal. See the "Example Set-up" below:

Example Dialectical Journal Set-up:

Your name

Ms. Metsch-Ampel

AP Literature & Composition

Date

Summer Assignment: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini

[INSERT AUTHOR INFORMATION & THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM THE SLIDES PRESENTATION HERE]

Dialectical Journal EXAMPLE ENTRY for another book

Quotation/Passage & <u>Page Number</u>	Paraphrase or Summary	Analyze and Respond (Why does the passage resonate with you? Why did you choose it?)
<p>“I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a “bank error” that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue?” (1).</p>	<p>The author is remembering that a common childhood game had a positive moment when a player received “free” cash because a bank made a mistake. This is the way the book begins and sets up the idea of the Cheating Culture.</p>	<p>By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember— not just the game, but the excitement of a “bank error” card. He also issues the question that “banks have plenty of money” so “why argue?” This mimics what most people would say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn’t rightfully theirs. In real life, I think many people would just take the money. We tend to view banks as huge institutions that will not miss a few dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the “little guy” is barely getting by is especially prevalent now when inflation is high and people are having trouble making ends meet.</p>

Please work hard, but make sure to find time to relax and enjoy the summer, too!

Scoring Rubric

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	POINTS POSSIBLE	COMMENTS
Responses reflect deep reading and thoughtful, relevant connections.		40	
Responses reflect appropriate, formal, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.		40	
All aspects of the assignment are completed. Quoted passages are taken from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.		20	
Total		100	