1. **The Kite Runner Study Questions: Chapters 1-5**
2. The novel begins with a flashback. What do you think is its purpose? What do you learn about the narrator?
3. Who is Hassan? Describe him physically. What is a cleft lip? Describe him by his relationships. What was his first word? Why is that important?
4. How did Hassan come into Amir's life? What contrast is made between Amir and Hassan?
5. What does it mean to be *Hazara,* Shi’a Muslim, Afghanistan’s minority group? Who, in the story thus far, is *Hazara*?
6. What does it mean to be *Pashtun*, Sunni Muslim, Afghanistan’s majority group? Who, in the story thus far, is *Pashtun*?
7. How does Amir describe his home? Why do you think he elaborates this description so much? What do the details of the family pictures in Amir's house reveal?
8. Who is Sanaubar? How is she contrasted to Amir's mother?
9. Who is Ali? What do the neighborhood children call him? What does it mean? Why do they call him this?
10. How does Amir feel about his father in these chapters?
11. Who is the king’s cousin? What did he do and why?
12. Who is Baba? Describe him. What are his values? How does he relate to extremely religious leaders?
13. What does Baba give Hassan for his birthday? What does his present suggest about his character? How does Amir react to this present? Why did the present turn out to be ironic?
14. Who is Assef? What is his ancestry? What is he famous for? What is his political vision?
15. Who are Wali and Kamal?
16. What happens between Assef/Wali/Kamal and Amir/Hassan? What does Assef threaten (foreshadow)?
17. Hassan has plastic surgery to be able to smile “normally” by the following winter. Why does Amir think that is ironic?
18. What does Amir want to tell Assef about Hassan when Assef bullies them about being friends?