

Iona Preparatory School

English STEP I

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one.” -

George R.R. Martin

This class focuses on the close reading of great literary works, thoughtful writing, and lively Socratic discussion. Our goal is to intensively study historical fiction works across different time periods in a manner that provides a deep appreciation for and understanding of the works themselves and literature as a whole. Through a variety of methods, we will strive to become thoughtful, critical, and persuasive writers who draw inspiration from the works that we study.

Summer Assignments

The following summer assignments serve the dual purpose of beginning your career as a high school writer and examining different elements of literature.

1. Read and annotate *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini **(The full novel should be read by class on Monday- September 9, 2024)**
 - A downloadable PDF version of the novel can be accessed [here](#). You may also purchase a physical copy.
 - I recommend highlighting quotes that stand out to you. We will spend a lot of the year analyzing important quotes from literature throughout class discussions, homework assignments, exams, and essays.
2. Complete the *The Kite Runner* Essay **(DUE: Monday- September 9, 2024 at 8am on Turnitin and Google Classroom)**
 - Choose **ONE** of the prompts on the next page and compose a 5-paragraph essay.
 - I will provide you with the information to create an account for our class' Turnitin page on the first day of classes (September 6, 2024). You will submit your essay here by the deadline.
3. Come to class prepared to discuss the *The Kite Runner* **(We will begin class discussions regarding the novel on Monday- September 9, 2024)**
 - a. You may wish to consider:
 - Character development
 - Plot
 - Themes
 - Point of View
 - Conflict

I look forward to meeting all of you in September!

Best,

Ms. Falvey- mfalvey@ionaprep.org

The Kite Runner Essay Prompt Options

Choose **ONE** of the following prompts to respond to in a **five-paragraph** essay. Be sure to include a strong thesis statement and textual evidence (direct quotes) in your three body paragraphs.

1. *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, explores themes of redemption and guilt. Discuss the ways in which the characters in the novel seek redemption and how guilt shapes their actions.
2. Explore the father-son relationships in *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. How do Baba's and Amir's relationships with their fathers shape their identities and choices? Discuss the similarities and differences between these relationships.
3. Friendship plays a significant role in *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. Analyze the complexities of the friendship between Amir and Hassan and how it evolves throughout the novel. What does their friendship reveal about loyalty, betrayal, and sacrifice?
4. The theme of identity is explored throughout *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. Discuss the ways in which the characters grapple with their cultural, ethnic, and personal identities. How do these identities influence their choices and interactions?