THE KITE RUNNER ESSAY EXAMPLES

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| **Choose a novel or short story in which there is a character who experiences rejection or isolation.****With reference to appropriate techniques, explain the rejection or isolation, and discuss how this aspect adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.** | **Choose a novel or short story which has an effective opening or conclusion.****With reference to appropriate techniques, explain why the opening or conclusion is effective and discuss how it adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.** | **Choose a novel or short story which has an effective opening or conclusion.****With reference to appropriate techniques, explain why the opening or conclusion is effective and discuss how it adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.** | **Choose a novel or short story which deals with the theme of love or loss or redemption.****With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer develops this theme, and discuss how it adds to your understanding of the text as a whole.** |
| In The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini Amir experiences a self-imposed isolation. In the novel he fails to intervene in the rape of his half-brother, Hassan, and must repent for this in later life by rescuing his nephew from the same abuser. We can look at how Hosseini uses the story of Amir’s self-imposed isolation to explore the bigger theme of redemption in order to show us to be good people. | In The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini there is an effective opening when Amir tells us he is told ‘there is a way to be good again’ after an event in his past. In the novel he fails to intervene in the rape of his half-brother, Hassan, and must repent for this in later life by rescuing his nephew from the same abuser. We can look at how Hosseini uses the opening effectively before telling rest of the story to show us the bigger theme redemption in order to show us to be good people. | In The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini there is an effective ending when everything is made right. In the novel he fails to intervene in the rape of his half-brother, Hassan, and must repent for this in later life by rescuing his nephew from the same abuser. We can look at how Hosseini builds to this satisfying ending by walking us through Amir’s actions and showing us the theme of redemption in order to show us to be good people. | In The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini the theme of redemption is explored. In the novel he fails to intervene in the rape of his half-brother, Hassan, and must repent for this in later life by rescuing his nephew from the same abuser. We can look at how Hosseini explores the theme of redemption through Amir and his actions in order to show us to be good people.  |
| Amir self-isolates because he does not know how to respond to the rape of Hassan. He watches and says Hassan had ‘the look of the lamb’. The text uses alliteration here to draw our attention to the words. It is a soft sound which emphasises Hassan’s softness and innocence. The metaphor compares Hassan’s eyes to a lamb. He is sacrificing himself for Amir just like the lamb is sacrificed in the Eid festival and Hassan accepts his fate much like the lamb. This causes Amir to self-isolate as he cannot bear the guilt of not stopping Hassan from being raped and this is what he must learn to redeem himself for.  | The opening is effective as it immediately introduces the idea of redemption and intrigues the reader as we try to work out what Amir has done. Rahim Khan tells Amir on the phone ‘there is a way to be good again’. The word choice here is interesting. The use of ‘good’ suggests that there is a tug of conscience here as Amir feels he is being a ‘bad’ person. Also the word choice of ‘again’ suggests Khan knows Amir can make up for his past. This creates an effective opening as Amir admits to the reader that he did something wrong when he was young. We are intrigued to find out what it was, and we want to know how he will redeem himself for past actions.  | The story begins harrowingly, with Hassan being raped and Amir failing to intervene. He watches and says Hassan had ‘the look of the lamb’. The text uses alliteration here to draw our attention to the words. It is a soft sound which emphasises Hassan’s softness and innocence. The metaphor compares Hassan’s eyes to a lamb. He is sacrificing himself for Amir just like the lamb is sacrificed in the Eid festival and Hassan accepts his fate much like the lamb. This begins the book of by showing us that Amir clearly needs to step up and do something, but instead he feels guilty and hides himself from redemption and the book must work towards his redemption. | The story clearly sets itself up as dealing with redemption by having Amir fail to stop the rape of Hassan in the opening chapters. He watches and says Hassan had ‘the look of the lamb’. The text uses alliteration here to draw our attention to the words. It is a soft sound which emphasises Hassan’s softness and innocence. The metaphor compares Hassan’s eyes to a lamb. He is sacrificing himself for Amir just like the lamb is sacrificed in the Eid festival and Hassan accepts his fate much like the lamb. This inability to intervene has Amir feeling guilty but unable to do the right thing and he still must work out how to redeem himself. |
| Amir cannot handle the guilt he feels towards Hassan over the rape and so he attempts to push Hassan away. The first way we see him attempt this is when he takes Hassan to the pomegranate tree and throws pomegranates at him whilst shouting “Coward! Coward!’ The pomegranate tree was where the boys played together and had come to symbolise their equal friendship when they carved ‘Sultans of Kabul’ on it and claimed they were joint rulers of their city. Now, Amir shatters the friendship by physical breaking the pomegranates on Hassan’s face thus destroying the symbol of it as well. His word choice is notable, as although he says ‘coward’ at Hassan, he is really describing his own lack of courage to intervene in the rape. The exclamation marks also show how angrily he is shouting these words. The second way Amir pushes Hassan away is by framing him for stealing a watching. Hassan is still so loyal to Amir that when asked if he stole the watch he says ‘in a thin, raspy voice: ‘yes’’. This shows how Hassan understands Amir’s guilt and that he understands Amir’s need to push him away and he accepts the blame. Amir is clearly unable to deal with his guilt at this stage and this causes him to further self-isolate.  | The book then flashes back to the past and introduces Hassan getting raped and Amir’s inability to intervene for fear of being beaten up. He watches and says Hassan had ‘the look of the lamb’. The text uses alliteration here to draw our attention to the words. It is a soft sound which emphasises Hassan’s softness and innocence. The metaphor compares Hassan’s eyes to a lamb. He is sacrificing himself for Amir just like the lamb is sacrificed in the Eid festival and Hassan accepts his fate much like the lamb. In flashing back to the start of the story Hosseini has shown us clearly what Amir has done that was ‘wrong’ and what it is he needs to make up and redeem himself for.  | After witnessing the rape Amir struggles to cope with his guilt and so he tries to push Hassan away. The first way we see him attempt this is when he takes Hassan to the pomegranate tree and throws pomegranates at him whilst shouting “Coward! Coward!’ The pomegranate tree was where the boys played together and had come to symbolise their equal friendship when they carved ‘Sultans of Kabul’ on it and claimed they were joint rulers of their city. Now, Amir shatters the friendship by physical breaking the pomegranates on Hassan’s face thus destroying the symbol of it as well. His word choice is notable, as although he says ‘coward’ at Hassan, he is really describing his own lack of courage to intervene in the rape. The exclamation marks also show how angrily he is shouting these words. The second way Amir pushes Hassan away is by framing him for stealing a watching. Hassan is still so loyal to Amir that when asked if he stole the watch he says ‘in a thin, raspy voice: ‘yes’’. This shows how Hassan understands Amir’s guilt and that he understands Amir’s need to push him away and he accepts the blame. At this point in the novel we wonder how Amir can make things right as he is so far away from redeeming himself.  | Amir cannot deal with his guilt at not intervening in the rape and so he decides to push Hassan away as he thinks this will help. The first way we see him attempt this is when he takes Hassan to the pomegranate tree and throws pomegranates at him whilst shouting “Coward! Coward!’ The pomegranate tree was where the boys played together and had come to symbolise their equal friendship when they carved ‘Sultans of Kabul’ on it and claimed they were joint rulers of their city. Now, Amir shatters the friendship by physical breaking the pomegranates on Hassan’s face thus destroying the symbol of it as well. His word choice is notable, as although he says ‘coward’ at Hassan, he is really describing his own lack of courage to intervene in the rape. The exclamation marks also show how angrily he is shouting these words. The second way Amir pushes Hassan away is by framing him for stealing a watching. Hassan is still so loyal to Amir that when asked if he stole the watch he says ‘in a thin, raspy voice: ‘yes’’. This shows how Hassan understands Amir’s guilt and that he understands Amir’s need to push him away and he accepts the blame. At this point in the novel we see that Amir is sinking as low as he must go and we wonder how he will find his way back to redemption.  |
| Amir is finally given the opportunity to break his self-isolation as an adult living in America when Rahim Khan, his godfather, requests that he rescue his nephew Sohrab from the same person who abused Hassan. Rahim Khan tells Amir on the phone ‘there is a way to be good again’. The word choice here is interesting. The use of ‘good’ suggests that there is a tug of conscience here as Amir feels he is being a ‘bad’ person. Also the word choice of ‘again’ suggests Khan knows Amir can make up for his past. This scene is important as it is the turning point for Amir, it is the prompt he needed to take himself out of isolation and begin his journey of redemption.  | Amir cannot handle his guilt after Hassan’s rape and attempts to push Hassan away. The first way we see him attempt this is when he takes Hassan to the pomegranate tree and throws pomegranates at him whilst shouting “Coward! Coward!’ The pomegranate tree was where the boys played together and had come to symbolise their equal friendship when they carved ‘Sultans of Kabul’ on it and claimed they were joint rulers of their city. Now, Amir shatters the friendship by physical breaking the pomegranates on Hassan’s face thus destroying the symbol of it as well. His word choice is notable, as although he says ‘coward’ at Hassan, he is really describing his own lack of courage to intervene in the rape. The exclamation marks also show how angrily he is shouting these words. The second way Amir pushes Hassan away is by framing him for stealing a watching. Hassan is still so loyal to Amir that when asked if he stole the watch he says ‘in a thin, raspy voice: ‘yes’’. This shows how Hassan understands Amir’s guilt and that he understands Amir’s need to push him away and he accepts the blame. We now understand why Rahim Khan told Amir there was a way to be good again and we now understand why Amir needs to desperately redeem himself – it is to make up for the pain he caused Hassan.  | Amir now faces a turning point in the novel when his godfather, Rahim Khan tells him he has a chance to make things better with Hassan. Rahim Khan tells Amir on the phone ‘there is a way to be good again’. The word choice here is interesting. The use of ‘good’ suggests that there is a tug of conscience here as Amir feels he is being a ‘bad’ person. Also the word choice of ‘again’ suggests Khan knows Amir can make up for his past. This makes us think there is hope for Amir to make things right and it starts his journey of redemption, building towards a successful ending.  | Amir faces a turning point in his journey when Rahim Khan contacts him and requests he returns to Afghanistan to rescue his nephew Sohrab. Rahim Khan tells Amir on the phone ‘there is a way to be good again’. The word choice here is interesting. The use of ‘good’ suggests that there is a tug of conscience here as Amir feels he is being a ‘bad’ person. Also the word choice of ‘again’ suggests Khan knows Amir can make up for his past. This clearly ties in to the main theme of redemption as this is the start of Amir actually redeeming himself.  |
| In order to rescue his nephew Sohrab, Amir must confront the person who abused Hassan all those years ago, who is now abusing Sohrab. Amir is beaten up badly by Assef and we are told ‘my body was broken… but I felt healed. I laughed.’ The alliterative and plosive ‘b’ draws attention to the hurt he is suffering and also mimics the snapping sound his bones would make. The word choice makes clear here that he is physically broken, however we know from the ‘but’ that he is going to say something contradictory – he felt ‘healed’. The reason for this word choice is to show us that mentally and emotionally Amir feels good as he has finally done the right thing. His ‘laugh’ at the end is from relief. Amir has taken himself out of his self-isolation and has taken the biggest step towards redeeming himself.  | Amir then goes back to Afghanistan and fights Assef, Sohrab’s abuser (and also Hassan’s). Amir is beaten up badly by Assef and we are told ‘my body was broken… but I felt healed. I laughed.’ The alliterative and plosive ‘b’ draws attention to the hurt he is suffering and also mimics the snapping sound his bones would make. The word choice makes clear here that he is physically broken, however we know from the ‘but’ that he is going to say something contradictory – he felt ‘healed’. The reason for this word choice is to show us that mentally and emotionally Amir feels good as he has finally done the right thing. His ‘laugh’ at the end is from relief. This scene is important because this is the biggest thing Amir had to do to be good again – he had to take the beating he should have taken for Hassan, and now he is part-way redeemed.  | Amir then goes back to Afghanistan and fights Assef, Sohrab’s abuser (and also Hassan’s). Amir is beaten up badly by Assef and we are told ‘my body was broken… but I felt healed. I laughed.’ The alliterative and plosive ‘b’ draws attention to the hurt he is suffering and also mimics the snapping sound his bones would make. The word choice makes clear here that he is physically broken, however we know from the ‘but’ that he is going to say something contradictory – he felt ‘healed’. The reason for this word choice is to show us that mentally and emotionally Amir feels good as he has finally done the right thing. His ‘laugh’ at the end is from relief. This build towards the satisfying ending as we see that Amir has taken a big step towards his redemption by taking the beating he should have taken as a child.  | Amir then goes back to Afghanistan and fights Assef, Sohrab’s abuser (and also Hassan’s). Amir is beaten up badly by Assef and we are told ‘my body was broken… but I felt healed. I laughed.’ The alliterative and plosive ‘b’ draws attention to the hurt he is suffering and also mimics the snapping sound his bones would make. The word choice makes clear here that he is physically broken, however we know from the ‘but’ that he is going to say something contradictory – he felt ‘healed’. The reason for this word choice is to show us that mentally and emotionally Amir feels good as he has finally done the right thing. His ‘laugh’ at the end is from relief. This exemplifies the theme of redemption as this is the beating Amir should have had by stopping Hassan from being raped all those years ago.  |
| Amir takes himself out of his self-isolation completely by the end of the book when he stands up to his father-in-law and bonds with Sohrab. He says to his father-in-law “You will not refer to him as that Hazara boy again. He has a name. It is Sohrab’ All of this is said as statements and commands. He is being direct with his father-in-law and finally standing up for those who can’t defend themselves. He also says to Sohrab ‘for you a thousand times over’. This is something that Hassan used to say to him. The ‘thousand times’ showed the depths of Hassan’s love and loyalty. Saying it to Sohrab, shows that Amir now has this depth of love and loyalty for his nephew. Amir is no longer in a self-imposed isolation and has now fully redeemed himself.  | Amir finally becomes ‘good again’ as suggested in the books opening by standing up to his father-in-law and bonding with Sohrab. He says to his father-in-law “You will not refer to him as that Hazara boy again. He has a name. It is Sohrab’ All of this is said as statements and commands. He is being direct with his father-in-law and finally standing up for those who can’t defend themselves. He also says to Sohrab ‘for you a thousand times over’. This is something that Hassan used to say to him. The ‘thousand times’ showed the depths of Hassan’s love and loyalty. Saying it to Sohrab, shows that Amir now has this depth of love and loyalty for his nephew. Amir has now fully redeemed himself and learned how to be ‘good’.  | A satisfying ending is given when Amir finally redeems himself fully when he stands up to his father-in-law and bonds with Sohrab. He says to his father-in-law “You will not refer to him as that Hazara boy again. He has a name. It is Sohrab’ All of this is said as statements and commands. He is being direct with his father-in-law and finally standing up for those who can’t defend themselves. He also says to Sohrab ‘for you a thousand times over’. This is something that Hassan used to say to him. The ‘thousand times’ showed the depths of Hassan’s love and loyalty. Saying it to Sohrab, shows that Amir now has this depth of love and loyalty for his nephew. Amir is no longer in a self-imposed isolation and has now fully redeemed himself thus giving us a satisfying ending.  | Redemption is realised for Amir at the end of the novel as he finally stands up to his father-in-law and bonds with Sohrab. He says to his father-in-law “You will not refer to him as that Hazara boy again. He has a name. It is Sohrab’ All of this is said as statements and commands. He is being direct with his father-in-law and finally standing up for those who can’t defend themselves. He also says to Sohrab ‘for you a thousand times over’. This is something that Hassan used to say to him. The ‘thousand times’ showed the depths of Hassan’s love and loyalty. Saying it to Sohrab, shows that Amir now has this depth of love and loyalty for his nephew. The idea of Amir standing up for others and showing Sohrab his love shows us that he has fully redeemed himself. |
| In conclusion, Amir’s self-isolation was caused by his inability to prevent the rape of Hassan, his best friend and half-brother. The guilt he felt at this caused him to push Hassan away. Later in life he is given a chance to make up for his treatment of Hassan by Rahim Khan. He defeats Assef to rescue Sohrab, and in doing so makes up for his past mistakes. All of this was done by Hosseini to demonstrate the theme of redemption and to show us that it is important to be good people.  | In conclusion, the opening of the novel made clear that Amir would have to redeem a past mistake. The book then jumped us back to his past where he failed to prevent the rape of his friend and half-brother Hassan, before ostracizing himself further by pushing Hassan away when unable to process his guilt. Rahim Khan however, offers Amir a way to fix things and Amir does so by rescuing Sohrab from Assef, the same man who had abused Hassan. In finally sticking up to his father-in-law and supporting Sohrab, Amir proves that he has redeemed himself and Hosseini proves to his audience the importance of being a good person.  | In conclusion we can see how the story built to a satisfactory ending where Amir redeemed his actions in the past. Amir didn’t stop the rape of Hassan, but in rescuing Sohrab later, and taking the beating, and then sticking up for Sohrab and bonding with him he proves himself to be a good person. Hosseini uses this ending to show us the importance of being ‘good’. | In conclusion, redemption is the main theme of The Kite Runner. Amir, after failing to stop Hassan from being raped must make up for it by rescuing Sohrab. In doing so he proves the importance of being a ‘good’ person and making up for mistakes.  |