Chapters 10 – 13:

Do you think Amir’s father did the right thing standing up for the woman in the truck as they were fleeing Afghanistan, if there was a chance he would have left Amir alone? Why or why not?

Do you think what Amir’s father did would have been the wrong thing if, like the other people in the truck, he didn’t stand up to the soldier?

What do you think needs to be true for it to be obvious that Amir’s father did the right thing, or the wrong thing? (Examples, safety, rule of law, etc.)

What protections do you think refugees have?

Did these protections help Amir, his father, and the people they were with?

Remember what Amir said about Afghans – they love custom but hate rules. How do you think North America is different? List a few examples these differences.

Do you think that there are was people in Canada love custom, but hate rules? If not, why not? If so, list some examples to support your claim.

Do you think the Taliban also felt that custom was important?

Many of the customs that Amir mentions from before the wars became rules under the Taliban. What do you think this did to Afghan customs?

Amir says that the norms around women, modesty, and chastity are old ones in Afghanistan, and his father seems to believe in their importance. But it certainly doesn’t seem that Amir’s family believed it was OK to subjugate women in Afghanistan as they were later subjugated under the Taliban. What do you believe made these customs harmless when Amir lived in Afghanistan – or do you believe they were never harmless?

What are some differences between the Afghan community that Amir describes before the war and the treatment of women under totalitarian Islamist regimes like the Taliban?

Amir’s father takes offense to being asked for ID when making a purchase, because it would be unusual back in Afghanistan for him to have been asked for ID. Do you think North America has a less trusting society?

What do you think is the root of the difference between how Amir’s father is treated in San Francisco compared to how he was treated in Kabul?

What are some similarities between the Afghan community Amir and his father join in San Francisco to the one they left in Kabul? What are some differences?

Do you think Amir is right that being raised around only men helped him to care less about Afghan concerns about honour and chastity?

What do you think of the fact that Soraya’s father was so controlling over her before she was married, but also wants her to become an attorney?