The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini and The Lottery by Marjorie Barnard both construct voice through different characters in order to encourage people like us to empathise with those outside our own context. The Kite Runner is set in the 1970s of Kabul, Afghanistan during the protagonist's childhood up till the early 2000s. It deals with a coming of age story in which Amir makes mistakes and has a desire to redeem himself. Khaled Hosseini creates two dominant voices in The Kite Runner, which are the burdened and trapped voice of Amir in his childhood and followed by a voice of determination to right his wrongs as a grown man. This is well-constructed through the use of first person point of view and foreshadowing. However in The Lottery, Barnard presents a voice of power and control displayed by Ted Bilborough by using point of view and exaggeration. It deals with how he treats his wife once he learns of her winning the lottery. Ted's voice reinforces the traditional beliefs and values that the men were entitled to money and position while also marginalising women back in the early 1900s. Hence, both texts positions me to feel empathy for certain characters and their context through the manipulation of voice.

A guilt-ridden and burdened voice seen through Amir's character in The Kite Runner is constructed through the use of first person point of view and foreshadowing. Through majority of the novel, Amir narrates his life from childhood to adulthood using retrospect. The novel begins with the following, "I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975". This is symbolic due to the description of winter alluding to the negative connotation that's attached with it. It also foreshadows to the reader that something significant occurs on the "winter of 1975". Thus we are introduced Amir's voice of unrest and not being at peace due to his past. Later in the novel, we are given the impression of relief by Amir when migrating to USA in the 1980s which helps him to forget his haunted past. "Let my sins drown to the bottom, let the waters carry me some place far. Some place with no ghost, no memories and no sins". Hosseini uses a tricolon to emphasise the burden of Amir's past. Therefore the reader can identify a voice of guilt through Amir, leading to empathising for him as he lives a tough life of social and political hardships during the Soviet Invasion and Taliban rule in contrast to contemporary society.

As Amir becomes an adult and narrates his adulthood life, we are given a change of tone in his voice through further first person point of view. His voice becomes determined in making up for his past actions, as he ultimately mistreats Hassan and leaves him in the alleyway to be raped by Assef, a privileged elite. With a desire to atone for his sins, he goes back to Kabul in order to save Sohrab, Hassan's orphaned child, who has been taken under slavery by Assef. "I'd chase the car…I'd pull Hassan out of the backseat and tell him I was sorry, so sorry". This use of emotive language and repetition shows that his decision to risk his life to save Sohrab is fuelled by his desire to redeem himself. Amir's act of saving Sohrab is symbolic of him taking a second chance at saving Hassan from Assef. The quote, "my body was broken-just how badly I wouldn't find out until later-but I felt healed. Healed at last. I laughed" reflects Amir's relief in finally being punished for his past actions. This further conveys his voice of determination in finding redemption, and thus we feel empathy for Amir who goes through a lot and only sees getting beaten up as a way to relieve his guilt.

In comparison, The Lottery conveys a distinct voice of power and control through the characterisation of Ted Bilborough and third person limited point of view. Throughout the story we are constantly reminded that Ted's wife won the lottery and he constantly questions how she had the money to buy a lottery ticket. His voice suggests that men in the early 1930s in particular had a sense of entitlement in money, position and power. Ted's attitude towards money and being in a position of overseeing all things to do with money is seen in the first paragraph, "he felt his assurance threatened, and the corner of his mouth twitched uncomfortably in his fat cheek". A voice of control and cockiness is further supported when he's walking home with other men and he offers the money Grace won to his neighbour to help out financially to regain control seen in their conversation, "I won't see you stuck, old man". In conclusion, we empathise with Ted's wife, Grace who is seen to be financially controlled by Ted who portrays a voice of control and power through the use of exaggeration and dialogue.

Ted also conveys a voice that's condescending of Grace's decision to use money without his knowledge. He questions Grace's honesty as a result of her winning the lottery instead of asking what would cause her to do this. "There was something secretive in Grace, and he'd thought she told him everything". When he arrives back home, he uses sarcasm in his dialogue to greet his

wife. "Well, well, well, and where's my rich wife?" suggests Ted and Grace hardly discuss topics about money because only Ted oversees it. His use of sarcasm is a way to question her motives with winning the lottery. After Grace confirms that she indeed did win the lottery by using her own money in her attempt at freedom, we are given the impression he feels he has done nothing to cause such behaviour. This is an attempt to position the reader to empathise for Ted who's wife is going to leave the family, though alternately we can understand Grace's intentions.This re-emphasises the fact he doesn't like not being in control and when he isn't, he questions his authority, "there was something secretive in Grace, and he'd thought she told him everything"

Empathy is generated for certain characters in <u>The Kite Runner</u> and <u>The Lottery</u> outside our context of a contemporary society. <u>The Kite Runner</u> is mostly set in the 1970s where Amir experiences a tough life during the events of the Soviet Invasion and rule of the Taliban. It follows Amir's path to redemption who conveys a voice of guilt and burden as a child and then conveying a voice of determination as a man. In <u>The Lottery</u>, Ted's voice of confidence and control lead to us empathising with his wife, Grace who feels trapped under the control of Ted. The short story conveys the dominance men had over women in the early 1900s, and due to Ted's control over Grace, she decides to buy a lottery ticket in which she wins, leading to constant questioning by Ted. The use of point of view and dialogue are used in both texts in order to generate this empathy.