*Kite Runner* Close Reading (chs. 7-15)

**Choose one of the passages below. Dissect the language by highlighting/underlining key words and details. Identify language and style devices the writer uses (literary devices like metaphors, similes, personification, imagery, etc. as well as rhetorical devices like repetition, parallelism, hyperbole, sentence structure, etc.).**

**Then, write a paragraph that explains the meaning and significance of the passage in relation to the story as a whole (see Reading Questions at the passages below).**

1.

“I hit him with another pomegranate, in the shoulder this time. The juice splattered his face. ‘Hit me back!’ I spat. ‘Hit me back, goddam you.’ I wished he would. I wished he’d give me the punishment I craved, so maybe I’d finally sleep at night. Maybe then things could return to how they used to be between us. But Hassan did nothing as I pelted him again and again. ‘You’re a coward!’ I said. ‘Nothing but a goddam coward!’

I don’t know how many times I hit him. All I know is that, when I finally stopped, exhausted and panting, Hassan smeared in red like he’d been shot by a firing squad. I fell to my knees, tired, spent, frustrated.

Then Hassan did pick up a pomegranate. He walked toward me. He opened it and crushed it against his own forehead. ‘There,’ he croaked, red dripping down his face like blood. ‘Are you satisfied? Do you feel better?’ He turned around and started down the hill.” (92-93)

Based on this passage:

* What do we learn about the characters? Character relationships?

I think this passage is a clear example of the relationship between Hassan and Amir, Amir being the abused, the commander, and the one holding the power in their relationship. And Hassan who is the servant, the abused, the listener, and most importantly the one willing to do anything for Amir. This is demonstrated in the passage when Amir thinks ¨ I wished he´d give me the punishment I craved, so maybe I´d finally sleep at night.¨ showing that he is trying to use Hassan to make himself feel better, to ease the guilt he feels. And Hassan responded with instead crushing the ladybug against himself and saying ¨Do you feel better?¨ demonstrates his desire to help Amir or possibly his unwillingness to hurt him, even if it's just a pomegranate.

* How does the passage advance the storyline/plot?

The passage advances the storyline because it acts as a big confrontation and change in the relationship between the two. Before this Amir had been avoiding Hassan and the guilt was building up. And this was in a way Amir confronting Hassan and himself about his guilt. And after this event, I would say there was even more distance. I also think that this could have Hassan about why Amir was acting like this, or at least confirmed his suspicions.

* What conflict(s) (self vs. self, self vs. other person, self vs. society, self vs. nature) are developed in this passage?

I think there was a lot of self to another person ( Amir to Hassan) in this passage because he is physically hitting and throwing things and yelling at Hassan. But I also think there is a lot of self to self ( Amir to Amir) because the only reason Amir is hitting Hassan is because he wants to stop feeling guilty and blaming himself. He is calling Hassan a coward because he himself sees himself as one. And he is pushing those emotions of guilt and self loathing onto Amir instead of confronting himself.

* What setting details make this scene memorable? How does the setting create the mood of the passage?

I think the pomegranates are a really big part of the setting and theme, and the concept of the pomegranate juice, looking like blood, sets a violent mood and nature. And even the hill makes the event seem important, as if they are elevated to in a sense put them in the spotlight.

* What language, style and structure devices are used to enhance the passage’s meaning?

The use of repetition when Amir says ¨’ I wished he would. I wished he’d give me¨ enhances Amir´s desire and centers the story around him. I also noticed the use of similes enhanced the story, by giving the reader a better visual of the sense, while also setting the mood of conflict, violence, and war. And the use of dialogue helps the reader get a sense of the characters' mental states and emotions, as well as an opportunity to empathize or imagine a similar scene they could have experienced.

* What theme/universal meaning is revealed?

Theme/universal meaning of the passage is the concept that humans desire to repel negative emotion and the specific example in this passage would be blaming others instead of yourself. Amir is so desperate to ease his guilt that he pushes his emotions onto Hassan, and acts irrationally. And this concept applies to the world because people dislike negative emotions, and act impulsive to release these feels. For example if someone is angry they fight and yell at others for no reason. That's a more mellow example, but you could also think of it as some people hurt or even kill themselves because they feel such depression they are willing to do anything to make that feeling go away. And in this story it is Amir's guilt towards what he did, or more, what he did not do. ( sorry if this is offensive/ inappropriate)