*Kite Runner* Close Reading (chs. 15-23)

**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 whole novel. Focus on the “dissected words” and how they reveal the meaning of the passage. Use the Reading Questions to guide your response.**

**Write your paragraph at the bottom of your dissected passages.**

2.

“ ‘WHAT’S SO FUNNY?’ Assef bellowed. Another rib snapped, this time left lower. What was so funny was that, for the first time since the winter of 1975, I felt at peace. I laughed because I saw that in some hidden nook in a corner of my mind, I’d even been looking forward to this. I remembered the day on the hill I had pelted Hassan with pomegranates and tried to provoke him. He’d just stood there, doing nothing, red juice soaking through his shirt like blood. Then he’d taken the pomegranate from my hand, crushed it against his forehead. *Are you satisfied now?* he’d hissed. *Do you feel better?* I hadn’t been happy and I hadn’t felt better, not at all. But I did now. My body was broken - just how badly I wouldn’t find out until later - but I felt healed. Healed at last. I laughed.

Then the end. That, I’ll take to my grave:” (289)

Words I noticed that held importance: bellowed, funny, peace, laghed, looking forward, pelted, nothing, blood, crushed, satisfied, hissed, happy, better, broken, healed

In the book, *The Kite Runner,* Amir, and Hassan have always had a complex love/hate relationship. And I think this passage advances the storyline because it concludes a recurring scene/ theme of the text. It began with Hassan and Amir's friendship by writing their names on the tree happily, to Amir hurting Hassan due to his knowledge and guilt. And I think the reason he's bringing these past scenes up, is because he feels as if it's finally his turn to balance the scales, to get hurt, and to feel pain. When Amir said, " My body was broken - just how badly I wouldn’t find out until later - but I felt healed" demonstrating how he feels as if he is atoning for the sins he committed and the pain he caused Hassan. Almost as if the events will cancel each other out, and I found that this idea reflects in the text with contrasting words such as ¨broken¨ and ¨healed,¨and how he brings up his joy within the pain. The main theme/idea from this passage is that Amir is selfish within his reconciliation. He shows this when he puts himself in Hassan's position from the time with the pomegranates, he sees himself as Hassan getting pelted with pomegranates, bleeding. And I recognized this fact in a sentence of the text when he says I “hadn’t been happy and I hadn’t felt better, not at all. But I did now” Amir is making it about him and his emotions instead of Hassa, who I feel Amir is comparing himself with. He tries to get rid of his guilt instead of accepting it and using it as an aspect that can push him to stand up for himself and others. I believe that over the years he has been able to see this in himself, and is trying to reconcile by adopting Hassan's son. But I also think that a selfish undertone lies in his actions and emotions.

Reading Questions:

* What do we learn about the characters? Character relationships?
* How does the passage advance the storyline/plot?
* What conflict(s) (self vs. self, self vs. other person, self vs. society, self vs. nature) are developed in this passage?
* What setting details make this scene memorable? How does the setting create the mood of the passage?
* What language, style and structure devices are used to enhance the passage’s meaning?
* What theme/universal meaning is revealed?