

WRITING CONTEST
CNY READS 2006-2007
THE KITE RUNNER BY KHALED HOSSEINI

Respond to any of the following prompts.

- 1) A theme of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is the morality of silence. **Is there ever a situation in which remaining silent is the best choice? Under what circumstances should someone break his/her silence about an issue? Defend your opinion.**

- 2) *The Kite Runner* is, at its simplest level, a story about friendship and betrayal. **Discuss a personal experience centered around a friendship. Have you ever felt betrayed by a friend, or have you felt that you betrayed a friend? What did you learn from this situation? How was this situation resolved?**

- 3) *The Kite Runner* is a novel that gives us many opportunities to learn – about another country and religion, about immigrant experiences, about relationships, about betrayal. **In what ways did this novel allow you to learn and to view experiences, cultures, and/or ideas in a new way?**

Judging criteria: Essays will be judged on clarity, originality, and development of ideas.

Submission guidelines: The contest is open to all high school students.

Essays should be no more than 500 words and should be typed. A cover sheet should include the writer's name, phone number, grade, age, school, and sponsoring teacher's name if applicable. Send print copies to CNY Reads Writing Contest, c/o Elizabeth Loftus, Administrator for Branch Services, Onondaga County Public Library, The Galleries of Syracuse, 447 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

Prizes: The winning essay (and poem) will be published in the Syracuse Post-Standard. Winners will be invited to participate in a reading of their work to be held at the downtown Onondaga County Public Library. Winners will receive a gift certificate from Barnes and Noble, along with other prizes.

Deadline: Postmarked by March 1st