

A.P. Literature and Composition Summer Reading (Revised 5/11/21):

Read Khaled Hosseini's second novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007). Take optional informal notes on the two female protagonists'--Mariam and Laila's--trials, tribulations, tragedies, and triumphs. Be prepared to discuss the novel during the first week of school in mid-August as the U.S. prepares to withdraw completely from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021. We will study the mother-daughter relationships and the harsh reality for women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Also, our first book together in September shall be Hosseini's debut novel *The Kite Runner* (2003), an excellent tandem piece that starts with father-son relationships and tensions. By the end of September, about six weeks into the Fall semester, we will write a 4-7 page comparative essay on *Splendid Suns* and *KR*. For now, just enjoy the gripping adventure of reading about a region and feminist issues that cannot be overlooked and must be studied in order to better understand the human condition.

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