

МЕДИЦИНА, ПЕДАГОГИКА И ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ:
ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА

Researchbib Impact factor: 13.14/2024

SJIF 2024 = 5.444

Том 3, Выпуск 04, Апрель

**KHALED HOSSEINI'S WORKS, SUCH AS THE KITE RUNNER AND
THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS, EXPLORE THE INNER LIVES AND
EMOTIONS OF TEENAGERS.**

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Abstract. *Khaled Hosseini, an Afghan-American author best known for his novels And the Mountains Echoed, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and The Kite Runner, has a unique gift for exploring the intricacies of interpersonal relationships and emotions. One of his main themes is the inner lives of young people, particularly teenagers, as they navigate the rough waters of identity, love, guilt, and bereavement. Through his remarkably empathetic portrayal of youth, Hosseini offers profound insights into the emotional struggles of adolescents, especially in the backdrop of war and societal expectations. His writings' exploration of teenage emotions and personal growth makes them appealing to readers of many ages and backgrounds.*

Keywords: *Identity and Self-Discovery, Friendship and Betrayal, Love and Romantic Awakening, The Burden of Expectations, War, Trauma, and Loss, Guilt and Redemption.*

Introduction. One of Hosseini's primary subjects is the study of identity. Teenagers in his works often battle with self-concept, trying to understand who they are and where they fit into a larger social, familial, and political framework. The protagonist of The Kite Runner, Amir, embarks on a journey of self-discovery during his adolescence. Even though he was raised in a privileged household, Amir feels inadequate and has a great desire to please his father. Because he must strike a balance between his affections for Hassan and social standards that demand a hierarchy between them, his relationship with Hassan—a loyal friend and servant—deepens his mental anguish.

Main part. Amir's internal conflict between his love for Hassan and his fear of social rejection characterizes the book's traumatic maturing process. His adolescent search for atonement after betraying Hassan highlights the challenges of identity formation. In the end, Amir's continuous process of self-discovery is revealed by his attempts to forgive and reconcile with his past. Similar to this, Mariam and Laila's experiences in A Thousand Splendid Suns provide a rich portrayal of identity. Both

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characters' teenage years are marked by their quest to find their place in the world, despite their tremendous adversity. While Mariam's adolescence is marked by her awakening to love and the brutal realities of war, Laila's is marked by her discovery of love and these same realities. Despite the violence and injustice they experience, their parallel journeys toward a deeper sense of self show how resilient young people can be when faced with hardship. Hassan's unwavering loyalty contrasts sharply with Amir's weakness and fear of social rejection, and when Amir fails to defend Hassan from an attack, he betrays the one person who has always loved him unconditionally. For years, Amir is tormented by this betrayal, which leaves a hole in his identity and ultimately leads him to atonement. The anguish of betrayal, especially when it happens early in life, profoundly shapes a teen's mental environment. Using this theme, Hosseini examines the complexities of regret, forgiveness, and guilt. While the relationships among the female characters in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* have elements of loyalty and betrayal, they are often forged under the pressure of society expectations and individual survival. Mariam and Laila's early suspicion of one another gradually gives way to a warm and supportive friendship as they both endure the hardships of their marriages and the harsh society they live in. This relationship, which is founded on mutual respect and suffering, shows how teenage girls can lean on one another for strength and support even during the most trying times. First love is another recurrent theme in Hosseini's works, particularly in his depictions of teenagers accepting their romantic feelings. Amir's affections for Soraya in *The Kite Runner* symbolize the naiveté and idealistic nature of first love. Cultural norms, individual fears, and Amir's past failures, however, significantly hamper their relationship. As Amir must face his past in order to gain the opportunity for a future with Soraya, the novel's themes of betrayal and atonement heighten the emotional costs of first love. Mariam and Laila's romantic connections are depicted in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* with profound emotional complexity. While Laila's first love with Tariq offers a brief moment of joy among the misery of war, Mariam's love for her violent husband, Rasheed, is tragically one-sided. The emotional worlds of both people are shaped by the conflict between love, grief, and survival. Hosseini depicts the ardor and sensitivity of adolescent love, along with the frequently terrible lessons it teaches, through these relationships. Frequently, Hosseini's youngsters must deal with the burden of cultural, social, and familial expectations. In *The Kite Runner*, Amir's emotional growth is fueled by his battle to live up to his father's expectations. Although Amir feels unworthy in contrast,

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Baba, a proud and powerful man, wants his son to be just as strong and successful. During Amir's early years, this conflict between his own aspirations and his parents' expectations causes him to feel deeply alone and self-conscious. In Amir's internal struggle, Hosseini masterfully captures the emotional strain that many youngsters feel from trying to live up to their parents' expectations. Teenagers like Abdullah and Pari are entangled in the web of family expectations in *And the Mountains Echoed*. Each character struggles to strike a balance between their ambitions and the demands and expectations of their family members, putting the link between the siblings to the test as they navigate the complexity of love, loyalty, and sacrifice. Teenagers' emotional problems in Hosseini's books are frequently made worse by the tragedy of war. The Afghan war backdrop significantly influences the emotional and psychological experiences of his teenage protagonists. After the devastation of war disrupts Laila's youth, her adolescence in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is marked by loss, displacement, and survival. Because she witnesses her city being devastated and her loved ones being brutalized, the war forces her to develop quickly. Similarly, conflict has a significant impact on *The Kite Runner's* young characters. The Soviet invasion permanently changes Amir and Hassan's lives, and the political upheaval in their country affects their emotional development. The tremendous impacts of the trauma, loss, and sadness that come with living in a community that has been torn apart by war make their emotional journeys even more poignant. Finally, regret and atonement play a significant role in the emotional lives of Hosseini's teenage heroines. Amir's eventual quest for atonement is a significant part of his maturation, since his remorse about leaving Hassan consumes his thoughts throughout his life. Teenagers in Hosseini's novels usually deal with the consequences of their actions, and the emotional weight of remorse can take over their lives. Mariam's regret over her purported failure to protect those she loves also plays a role in her emotional development in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. When Mariam ultimately finds peace through self-sacrifice, despite the enormous pain and loss in her life, she demonstrates that redemption is possible even in the midst of extreme suffering.

Conclusion. Through his finely detailed characters and their emotional struggles, Khaled Hosseini offers a captivating portrayal of the inner lives of teenagers. His writings examine issues like identity, friendship, betrayal, love, expectations, and the aftermath of tragedy—all of which are common to growing up. Hosseini's focus on the emotional lives of his young characters captures the immense complexity of

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adolescence and the lasting repercussions of these formative years on the human psyche. Whether they are navigating the challenging lessons of first love or seeking atonement after a mistake, Hosseini's teenage protagonists illuminate the universal experience of growing up in a world marked by love, grief, and conflict.

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