

What to read after *The Kite Runner*?

Suggestions from SJSU employees and students who will be facilitating book discussion groups:

Books about Afghanistan or stories that take place there - See lists at:

- § <http://www.cincinnati.library.org/samepage/2005/tkrreading.html>
- § <http://www.reading.acrossri.org/2005resources.htm>
- § <http://www.lincolnl libraries.org/info/obol/obol2005/obol2005ifyouliked.htm>

Rostam: Tales of the Shahnameh, a comic book by Bruce Bahmani (Hyperwerks). He will be a co-presenter with Professor Persis Karim on November 29, 2006 (1:30 – 2:45 in ENG 189) on Making the Old New (even in comic books!): Rumi, Sohrab, Rostam: Poetry and Classic Stories in *The Kite Runner*.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (2003)

- § “Jhumpa Lahiri brings her poignant style and acute observations about what it means to be an immigrant, and what it means to be part of a family, to the cross-cultural, multigenerational story of the Ganguli family.” [www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/booksellers/press_release/lahiri/]

The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad (2003)

- § Story of life in Afghan after the Taliban told by a journalist who spent 3 months in Kabul with a bookseller.

The Swallows of Kabul by Yasmina Khadra and John Cullen (2004)

- § A story of life in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

Kindred by Octavia Butler (1979)

- § This is on the list of 500 great books by women authors.
- § A science fiction story of a young woman taken back in time by a slave-owning ancestor whose life is in danger.

The Places in Between by Rory Stewart (2006)

- § True story of the author’s walk across Afghanistan soon after the ouster of the Taliban.
- § Provides a good overview of life in Afghanistan today.

Ice Candy Man by Bapsi Sidhwa (2000)

- § Novel about a Pakistan couple during the 1940’s.

Into the Forest by Jean Hegland (1998)

- § Novel about 2 sisters who must learn to survive when their parents die and the electricity and phones go out

Windfalls by Jean Hegland (2004)

- § Story of two separate women and their decisions about dealing with their pregnancies and about child-rearing.

Macho! By Victor Villasenor (1997)

- § A coming-of-age story of a 17-year old Mexican-American boy who leaves Mexico for California to pick fruit.

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (1973)

- § A coming-of-age story of a young boy growing up in New Mexico in the 1940’s.

The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason (2004)

- § Suspenseful story of four seniors at Princeton who investigate a mysterious 15th century book.

First They Killed My Father by Loung Ung (2000)

§ A narrative of a girl's severe struggles to survive in Cambodia in the 1970's.

Land of Smiles by T.C. Huo (2000)

§ This novel tells of a young Laotian boy's struggles in escaping to Thailand and eventually his struggles in the U.S. after he and his father are allowed to emigrate to Oakland.

Typical American by Gish Jen (1991)

§ A story of a man coming to the U.S. from China in the 1940's.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon (2000)

§ Per Random House: "a stunning novel in which the tragicomic adventures of a couple of boy geniuses reveal much about what happened to America in the middle of the twentieth century."

Other coming-of-age stories:

§ *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger

§ *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith

§ *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

§ *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain

§ *Little Women*, Alcott

§ *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

§ *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles

§ *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel

§ *Look Homeward, Angel*, Wolfe

§ *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Alvarez

Favorite books of Khaled Hossieni per list at Barnes & Noble website (for more information, see link on Campus Reading Program website at www.sjsu.edu/ugs/reading/)

1. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
2. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
3. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
4. *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
5. *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb
6. *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov
7. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel -
8. *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides
9. *Being Dead* by Jim Crace
10. *The Rubbayat of Omar Khayyam*

Dreaming in Titanic City by Khaled Hosseini

§ Expected publication date – October 2007

§ Story of two Afghani women friends