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Titles of literature can often depict themes and motifs of the pieces, and can even foreshadow an important symbol of the work. In Khaled Hosseini's novel, The Kite Runner, the kite itself is used to symbolize the ever changing relationship between Amir and Hassan; a vulnerable and problematic one-way street of a brotherhood.

The kite is given its significance quickly, as a symbol of innocence. The two boys -- Amir and Hassan -- bond through their separate skills in kite fighting and kite running, and both work as a team to win the entire tournament. As children, kites are reminded of happy times when they were together as a family, especially when Baba took Amir and Hassan to the best kite maker in the city. The kite is also used as a childish way of thinking that Amir could "win over" his father's love with bringing home the kite; ultimately causing the demise of positivity in the symbol of the kite.

The kite is later used as a symbol of the loss of innocence that Amir and Hassan especially experience. While Hassan refuses to give up the kite, his innocence is immediately stripped away when Assef rapes Hassan, creating a sudden dreary tone of the kite's symbolism. After what happens to Hassan, the kite remains as a reminder to Amir that he didn't help him out, overall giving the kite a symbol of betrayal and guilt. The kite is now a full symbol of loss of innocence along with the betrayal and guilt that is now housed in Amir, as well as a symbol of the better days of Afghanistan, as kite running is banned by the Taliban.

The kite is given another amendment towards the end of the book as a symbol of hope and redemption. This redemption is not only for Amir himself redeeming his guilt, but also the hope of Afghanistan being redeemed from the war. This change occurs when Amir takes in Hassan's son, Sorab and flies a kite with him, while telling him about his father. As Sorab is a mirror character of his father, Amir uses the kite to revitalize its symbol of innocence, and redeem

himself for the wrongs he has done to Hassan. At the end of the book, the kite has evolved into a symbol of hope and redemption for Amir's future with Sorab.

Hosseini's symbol of the kite gives readers 3 depictions of character developments that Amir experiences.