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**Forgiveness**

Random coincidences in literature can put a new perspective on a novel. Khaled Hosseini’s novel The Kite Runner is resembled in the movie “Atonement,” which is based on a novel by Ian McEwan. The stories depict two very separate circumstances—two young boys in Afghanistan and two sisters in England with an attractive neighbor boy—but have similarities beyond belief. From storyline to characterization, parallels can be seen from one story to the other.

Above any possible connection from The Kite Runner to “Atonement”, there is one similarity that stands out from all the others. The characterization from Robbie to Hassan is extremely similar, in both personal attributes and circumstances in the storyline. Both characters dwell in a lower class than the people that surround them. Hassan is a servant to Amir, who is friends with him the majority of the time. In one instance, Amir almost shouted that “he is not my friend…he is my servant” (Hosseini, 36). Amir overcame that urge because he knew that Hassan was the greatest friend that he could ever ask for; the same goes with Robbie to Briony and Cecilia. Because of Robbie and Hassan’s low status and financial struggles, they live on a small property near their respective families. The families care for the two young men with money as well. Baba pays for Hassan to have plastic surgery and lavish gifts, while the Tallis’ pay for Robbie’s education at a medical school. Even in death the men are similar; a war takes both of their lives.

Briony and Amir know that they must redeem themselves. The each knew the only “way to be good again” (Hosseini, 1). The duo made their redemption much more complicated than necessary. Telling the truth and asking for forgiveness was truly the only necessary step. Their betrayal couldn’t have happened to better people—they could easily be forgiven. Briony was fully aware that she had waited a bit too long to search for forgiveness. Her novel describing what really happened that night was her “final act of kindness” (Wright, 2007). Both Briony and Amir waited years too long to realize the necessary steps, and by then Robbie and Hassan were dead. Each did all they could to redeem themselves after procrastinating for so long; Amir saved Hassan’s son and Briony wrote a novel describing the circumstances to let the world know what she had done.

Through the good times and bad, Briony and Amir knew that Robbie and Hassan meant more to them than they would admit. Even after their betrayals, they knew that redemption was both possible and necessary; although Briony and Amir waited a bit too long, they found their own ways to make the terrible circumstances better, even after the death of their loved ones. All in all, they did everything they could to be atoned.