*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Guided Notes: A Unit on the Human Condition

Setting:

* Afghanistan—Major cities of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well as a few fictional villages
* The story begins in the late \_\_\_\_\_\_ and ends in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* This time period encompasses a great span of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Afghanistan

About the Author: Khaled Hosseini:

* Born in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Afghanistan in 1965
* His father worked for the Afghan Foreign Ministry—he moved his family around constantly due to violent political instability around the country
* His mother was a teacher of Persian Literature—she shared her passion for poetry and literature with her son.
* The family moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1980
* His 1st novel (the one that made him famous) *The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Runner,* 2003.
* *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is his 2nd novel, published in 2007.
	+ Both were highly acclaimed best-sellers.

Title Inspiration:

* The title came from a poem by \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ poet Saib-e-Tabrizi.
* “Every street of Kabul is enthralling to the eye/Through the bazaars, caravans of Egypt pass/One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs/And **\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that hide behind her walls.” \*\*You will get a copy of this poem to keep in your notes\*\*

Novel’s Influences:

* Treatment of women under the rule of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ turmoil of Afghanistan over the past 30 years.
* Beauty of a country that lies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beneath a violent political past.

Political Circumstances:

* Main conflicts in switching governments:
	+ Can Afghan culture be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(ed) OR
	+ Should the country keep with the old \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ways
	+ Should women be allowed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ? Should they wear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Continued:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Union infiltrating the country to get more land/power.
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group which gained strong control throughout Afghanistan.
* In a \_\_\_\_\_ - ridden country, many people took refuge in the neighboring countries of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage Rights:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (more than 1 wife) was socially accepted.
* Wives expected to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chores.
* Generally, wives all live in the same house.
* Men could choose how they wanted their wives to behave—whether they wear a burqa, go in public alone, etc.

Women: Before and After the Taliban

* Before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take over, women’s role in society was beginning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (especially in more urban areas).
	+ Allowed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Dress code was lightened—women could wear just a loose scarf over their head, as well as lipstick, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and high heels.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rights were granted to women in selected areas.
* With the Taliban in control, women basically lost all forms of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Taliban’s aim was to “secure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where the chasteness and dignity of women may once again be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
	+ Women were forced to wearBurqa—“face of a woman is a source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
	+ Women could not be in public without a \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ Women were not allowed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ Women could not be educated past age \_\_\_\_.
	+ Women were only allowed to read the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ Women could not go to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unless escorted.
	+ If they broke these laws, women were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ punished (beaten, shot, hanged, stoned, etc.)

Afghanistan Today:

* Now titled the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Republic of Afghanistan—the country has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a parliament.
* International powers are trying to help reform the political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, although the Taliban and other insurgent groups still have considerable power.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gains in women’s rights have been made (right to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_), but certainly nowhere close to the freedoms that women in other parts of the world have.
* The country remains a very unstable environment where many people live in constant fear.

Perspective of the novel (story):

* The novel is told from two different women’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at different points in their lives.
	+ Mariam—the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ child of a rich man and his housekeeper, she is 5 years old when the story starts.
	+ Laila—the child of loving and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parents who believe in women’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and rights, she is 9 years old when her story starts.
	+ Part 1: Mariam
	+ Part 2: Laila
	+ Part 3 switches between Mariam and Laila
	+ Part 4: Laila
	+ This provides a compelling view of Afghan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from two very different women as their journeys through life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unexpectedly

Thematic Subjects: (NOT Themes!):

* Inner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of women
* Enduring the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Finding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of despair
* Discovering strength in an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ companion
* Human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for evil
* Loyalty and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_