

And the Mountains Echoed

by Khaled Hosseini

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. And the Mountains Echoed introduces Saboor and his children Abdullah and Pari, whose separation shapes generations. How do the other characters and storylines connect back to this event, and what larger themes does Hosseini explore through these interwoven stories?
2. The novel opens with a tale of sacrifice. What do you think of Saboor's decision to let the adoption happen? How are Nila and Nabi involved in that choice, and whose motives seem most selfless?
3. Many characters make sacrifices in this novel - some painful, some redemptive. Compare Saboor's act to Parwana's sacrifice of her sister. What does the book suggest about the nature of choice and consequence?
4. The Rumi epigraph reads, 'Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there.' How does this reflect the moral questions faced by the characters?
5. The book raises complex questions about morality. Are good intentions enough to make someone 'good'? Can kindness stem from selfish motives, or harm from loving intent?
6. Consider wrongdoing and rightdoing among Saboor, Parwana, Masooma, Idris, Timur, Adel, and others. Who feels remorse, and how does regret shape them?
7. Discuss how the different families and storylines overlap and echo through generations. How does one act ripple outward to affect others?
8. Saboor's bedtime story opens the novel. How does storytelling help characters rationalize their actions? How do stories serve as both comfort and justification?
9. Compare the two homes central to the story - the modest house in Shadbagh and the grand Kabul estate. What do they symbolize about belonging, ownership, and memory?
10. The oak tree in Shadbagh is a recurring symbol. What does it represent to different characters, and why do you think Saboor cuts it down?

11. Discuss the non-biological relationships in the book - caretakers, friends, and mentors. How do these bonds compare to family ties?
12. Hosseini moves the story from Afghanistan to Europe and the U.S. Why do you think he used such a global scope? What experiences remain universal across these places?
13. Reflect on the title *And the Mountains Echoed*. How do you see 'echoes' or recurrences throughout the story's structure and themes?

Discussion Questions by PrincetonBookReview.com

Visit PrincetonBookReview.com for more