

## *The Swallows of Kabul* WebQuest

### **Background:**

It has been said about the novel, *The Swallows of Kabul*:

*'Khadra belongs in the ranks of those writers – J.M. Coetzee, for example – who make violence into art,' Lenora Todaro wrote in the New York Times Book Review. In the daily Times, Michiko Kakutani conceded 'just how deeply flawed The Swallows is as a piece of storytelling', but placed Khadra's 'chilling portrait of fundamentalism' squarely 'in the tradition of Albert Camus'.*

Adam Shatz

Over the past month, we have been reading the novel. To show your understanding of the novel, you are being asked to do a variety of tasks. You will be evaluated for each completed task, and for your overall project.

### **Tasks:**

1. **Summarize** and **react** to an article concerning the issues covered in *The Swallows of Kabul*. Choose **one** of the following links, read the article, summarize, and react to it. Remember, your reaction is what you think about what you read. This includes connections to what we've been reading and viewing. That means you should include something about Swallows in your reaction. This reaction should be at least three paragraphs long.

- [Taliban Rule of Afghanistan](#)
- [Afghani Civil War](#)
- [Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan](#)
- [Ahmad Shah Massoud](#)
- [Foreign Involvement in Afghanistan](#)
- [Taliban Rise to Power](#)
- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Afghani Treatment of Women](#)
- [Afghanistan and its Drug Lords](#)
- [The Taliban](#)
- [Effect of War on Kabul](#)

2. Analyze **two** characters from the novel using the biopoem format. You may do your poem on Atiq, Zunaira, Musarrat, or Mohsen.

Line 1: First name

Line 2: Four traits that describe the character.

Line 3: Relative of \_\_\_\_\_ (list two people)

Line 4: Lover of \_\_\_\_\_ (list three **THINGS**)

Line 5: Who feels \_\_\_\_\_ (three things)

Line 6: Who needs \_\_\_\_\_ (three things)

Line 7: Who fears \_\_\_\_\_ (three things)

Line 8: Who gives \_\_\_\_\_ (three things)

Line 9: Who would like to see \_\_\_\_\_ (three things)

Line 10: Resident of \_\_\_\_\_

Line 11: Last name

3. You are to write three diary entries. Your entry must be at least a paragraph of eight to ten sentences. You must choose one of the following characters: Zunaira or Musarrat.

**Zunaira:**

1. After Mohsen comes home and tells her that he stoned the prostitute.
2. After they get home from the mosque.
3. Right before Atiq takes her to the stadium.

**Musarrat:**

1. How she feels about her illness.
2. How she feels about Atiq.
3. How she comes to her decision to switch places with Zunaira.

4. Themes & Symbols: Below are the eight statements that we responded to before we began reading the story. Choose **three** of these statements. In a Word document, copy and paste a picture from [here](#) that you believe is an accurate representation of the statement. **Underneath the picture, type the statement. Then, in at least a couple of sentences, explain how the picture you have chosen fits the statement. Then, explain what the statement and picture has to do with the story.** An example of this is [here](#).

- War is a monstrosity.
- Love redeems humans.
- “If you're going to hold someone down you're going to have to hold on by the other end of the chain. You are confined by your own repression.”
- Some people will do anything for love.
- “If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.”
- Once a person starts down the road to insanity, it is impossible to stop.

- “Religion has kept all of us suffocated, I can’t raise my voice you can’t raise your voice, still they call us fundamentalists.”
- Desolation of one’s surroundings is often reflected in their personality.
- “... how terrible is the pain of the mind and heart when the freedom of mankind is suppressed!”