



Short Essay Questions

1. How does the narrator describe Mariam's discovery that she was an unwanted child in Chapter 1?

2. How would you describe Mariam's relationship with each of her parents in Chapter 1?

3. What discrepancy is seen between Nana's and Jalil's descriptions of Mariam's birth in Chapter 2?



4. How does Nana respond when Mullah Faizullah suggests Mariam be educated in Chapter 3? Why?

5. How are Jalil's visits to Mariam described in Chapter 4? What do they talk about?

6. How have Mariam's circumstances changed by the end of Chapter 5? What has caused Mariam's circumstances to change?





7. Chapter 6 is a transitional chapter in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. What purpose does this transition serve?

8. What are the reasons behind Mariam's marriage arrangement in Chapter 7? How is this arrangement perceived by the characters in the story?

9. How is the wedding ceremony described in Chapter 8? Who is present for the wedding?

10. How would you describe Mariam's introduction to married life in Chapter 9?

11. What circumstances lend themselves to Mariam's feelings of isolation in Chapter 10?

12. How has Mariam adjusted to married life by the beginning of Chapter 11?

13. What are Mariam's perceptions of Kabul during Ramadan in Chapter 12?



14. What loss does Mariam suffer in Chapter 13? How does this loss affect her?

15. How has Mariam's relationship with Rasheed evolved in Chapter 14? What has led to these changes?

16. What political events are described by the narrator in Chapter 15? How do these events affect the citizens of Afghanistan?



End of Part 1 - Quiz

17. What transition occurs with the beginning of Chapter 16? How are Laila and Tariq described in this chapter?

18. How are Laila's circumstances shown to be different than Mariam's circumstances in Chapter 16?

19. How is Fariba's (Laila's mother's) daily behavior described in Chapter 17?

