

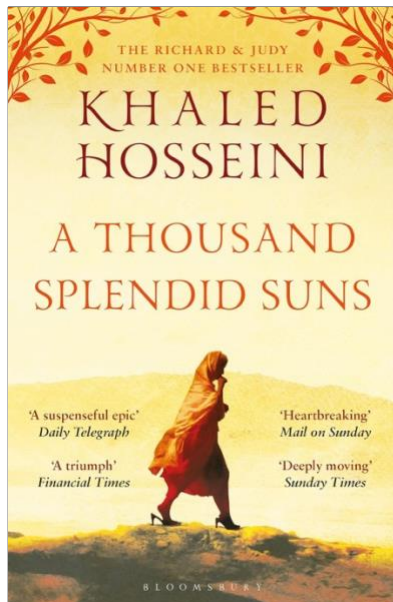


Book Talk

A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini

Number of pages: 432



Spanning five decades, ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** examines family, friendship and the role of women in Afghan society through a moving story that includes many kinds of love.

Mariam, the illegitimate daughter of a businessman and his housekeeper, and Laila, the privileged child of liberal parents, both are married to an abusive shoemaker, Rasheed. Afghanistan's volatile politics, including the impacts of Communism and the Taliban's rise to power, form the context of the book.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak or Hosseini's other bestselling novel, ***The Kite Runner***.

Discussion Questions: (5-7 questions. One question at a time.)

1. Did you learn anything new or surprising about Afghanistan from the book?
2. How do Mariam and Laila's relationships with their mothers shape their relationship with their children and each other?

3. Mariam's mother says: "Women like us. We endure. It's all we have." In what ways is this true? How do Mariam and Laila 'endure' in the book?
4. Why do you think *Titanic* became so popular that people would risk punishment to watch it?
5. Which characters do you think have happy endings?
6. Were there any parts/ideas in the book you struggled with?
7. This book is written by a male author. Does this surprise you? Do you think the author's gender influenced the writing of the book at all?

Thank you to our volunteer, Erin, for choosing this title and creating the resource.