

# THE KITE RUNNER

## SONG CONNECTION: "SOMETIMES" BY JAMES



James is a British rock band from Manchester, England. They formed in 1982. They have released numerous albums in the last three decades. Their songs are known for their emotional lyrics with a range of themes. The themes they cover range from love and loss to political commentary about war. They have been known for their musical experimentation. Their lead vocalist Tim Booth is known for his unique voice which enhances the band's sound. The other band members are Jim Glennie (bass guitar), Larry Gott (lead guitar, acoustic guitar, keyboard, flute), David Baynton-Power (drums), Saul Davies (rhythm guitar, acoustic guitar, violin, percussion), Mark Hunter (keyboards, piano), and Andy Diagram (trumpet, percussion)

Directions: To the left are the song lyrics, "Sometimes" by James. Read the song lyrics carefully and answer the questions that connect to *The Kite Runner* in the column next to it.

### SONG LYRICS "SOMETIMES"

### QUESTIONS CONNECTING TO "THE KITE RUNNER"

There's a storm outside, and the gap  
between crack and thunder

Crack and thunder, is closing in, is  
closing in

The rain floods gutters and makes a  
great sound on concrete

On a flat roof, there's a boy leaning  
against the wall of rain

Aerial held high, calling, "Come on  
thunder, come on thunder"

Sometimes, when I look deep in your  
eyes

I swear I can see your soul

Sometimes, when I look deep in your  
eyes

I swear I can see your soul

It's a monsoon and the rain lifts lids  
off cars

Spinning buses like toys, stripping  
them to chrome

- SCIENCE AND THEME:** Thunder is the sound caused by lightning. The time between hearing the thunder and seeing the lightning gives an estimate about how many miles away from where the lightning just struck. What does the "gap between crack and thunder" suggest about the narrator's emotions?
- THEME:** As you listen to the song and read the song lyrics think about the scene in the novel when Ali and Hassan have chosen to leave Baba's house after Hassan admits to a crime he didn't commit (pages 106-109). When Ali and Hassan are leaving Amir recalls the weather. Connect the storm and "gap between crack and thunder" to Amir's emotional state:
- ALLUSION:** In William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, Ariel is a spirit who serves the magician Prospero, who rescued him and with promises to grant Ariel his freedom after he serves him. Ariel is Prospero's eyes, using his magical abilities to cause the storm in the beginning of the play and control the other characters in order for them to become better people. How does the allusion to Ariel enhance the meaning of the narrator's situation?
- SYNTAX:** If Amir is the boy in the song, what does the repetition of "closing in" symbolize the context of the novel *The Kite Runner*?

Across the bay, the waves are turning  
into something else

Picking up fishing boats and spewing  
them on the shore

The boy is hit, lit up against the sky,  
like a sign, like a neon sign

And he crumples, drops into the  
gutter, cuts strange, legs twitching

The flood swells his clothes and  
delivers him on, delivers him on

Sometimes, when I look deep in your  
eyes

I swear I can see your soul

Sometimes, when I look deep in your  
eyes

I swear I can see your soul

There's four new colors in the rainbow  
an old man's taking Polaroids

But all he captures is endless rain,  
endless rain, endless rain

He says listen, takes my head and  
puts my ear to his

And I swear I can hear the sea

Sometimes, when I look in your eyes  
I can see your soul, I can reach your  
soul

Sometimes, when I look in your eyes  
I can see your soul, I can touch your  
soul

Sometimes, when I look in your eyes  
I can see your soul, I can hear your  
soul

5. **SYMBOLISM:** In the novel Amir reminds us that "eyes are the windows to the soul." He applies this concept to Ali: "It was an odd thing to see the stone-faced Ali happy, or sad, because only his slanted brown eyes glinted with a smile or welled with sorrow. People say that eyes are windows to the soul. Never was that more true than with Ali, who could only reveal himself through his eyes." How does this passage connect to the novel and the song?

6. **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:** Which figurative language device is used in this line, "Spinning buses like toys"? \_\_\_\_\_

7. **DICTION:** What is meant by the "waves are turning into something else" if you were to apply it to Amir's betrayal of Hassan?

8. **PLOT AND THEME:** List all the descriptive words that imply violence:

If Amir is the boy, what could be the moment in his life when he is "hit"?

9. **DICTION:** The word *delivers* in the line, "The flood swells his clothes and delivers him on, delivers him on," could mean \_\_\_\_\_. Why did you choose this word?

10. **CHARACTERIZATION:** Rahim Khan gives Amir an envelope with a Polaroid photograph and folded letter. Describe the photograph briefly (page 215). Who is in the photograph?

How does the stanza, "There's four new colors in the rainbow an old man's taking Polaroids/But all he captures is endless rain, endless rain, endless rain/He says listen, takes my head and puts my ear to his/And I swear I can hear the sea," connect to the Polaroid in the novel?

11. **IMAGERY:** Imagery is defined as "sensory details appealing to the five senses." The five senses are listed below. Write one phrase from the final chorus of the song that represents each sense. If one of the senses do not apply, write "Not Applicable"

Visual (sight) \_\_\_\_\_

Tactile/Kinesthetic (touch) \_\_\_\_\_

Auditory (sound) \_\_\_\_\_

Gustatory (taste) \_\_\_\_\_

Olfactory (smell) \_\_\_\_\_