

Name: _____

The Kite Runner

My Desperate Journey with A Human Smuggle by Barat Ali Batoor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr1usGUSuL4>



Directions: After viewing the TED Talk, thoughtfully answer the questions below.

1. What is Barat Ali Batoor's experience like in Afghanistan? How does this relate to *The Kite Runner*?
2. What is the situation like when Barat Ali Batoor returns to Pakistan after living in Afghanistan as an adult? Why does he flee?
3. What is Barat's trip like when he flees Pakistan, and how does it end? Compare this trip to Amir and Baba's to Pakistan.
4. What does Barat say about the lives of asylum seekers and their situation in Australia? Do you think it is different in America? Explain your response.
5. What speaking techniques (ethos, pathos, logos) does Barat Ali Batoor use to substantiate his TED Talk? Explain your response.



ANSWER KEY

1. What is Barat Ali Batoor's experience like in Afghanistan? How does this relate to the Kite Runner?

Barat was born into exile and persecuted for being a Hazara. This is just like how Hassan and Ali were looked down upon in the novel. Additionally, Assef mentions that Hazara are destroying Afghanistan and he supported Hitler's idea of ethnic cleansing. When Assef came into power as a Taliban member, he went house to house shooting Hazara. Also, Amir and Baba flee Afghanistan and go to Pakistan before coming to America, just like Barat and his family did.

2. What is the situation like when he returns to Pakistan after living in Afghanistan as an adult? Why does he flee?

When Barat goes back to Afghanistan at age 18 working as an interpreter. He wrote an article about how the warlords kidnapped young boys and make them sex slaves. He wrote an article for the Washington Post and then had to flee once he received death threats. Once back in Pakistan, he finds that the Hazara are now being persecuted there, though it was once a safe haven for them. The Hazara are isolated into two small areas and are marginalized socially, financially and educationally. Approximately 1,600 Hazaras had been attacked and killed, with 3,000 being seriously injured and permanently disabled.

3. What is his trip like when he flees Pakistan, and how does it end? Compare his trip with Amir and Baba's to Pakistan.

He is the only one to flee from his family so that he could establish himself and then send for his other family members. People were crying, praying and screaming. He compares it to a scene from doomsday. The sea journey was very unsafe. Many died when a boat sank. The waves were higher than the boat. Although they almost had to turn back, they made it to a small island. Amir and Baba travel in an oil tank. The air is so thick it hurts to breathe. Amir says it's like breathing through a straw. One person, Kamal, dies on their journey,

4. What does he say about the lives of asylum seekers and their situation in Australia? Do you think it is different in America? Explain your response.

It has been politicized and lost its human face. The asylum seekers have been demonized. They are already suffering so much and suffer even more when they are not welcomed into peaceful countries. In America, it is not that different. Despite the conditions in Syria, Americans are resistant to refugees. We do not openly welcome illegal immigrants from countries like Mexico or Cuba. Once they arrive, they must hide and live in fear of being caught and deported. Very few get to stay in comparison with the number of those who successfully cross the borders.

5. What speaking techniques (ethos, pathos, logos) does Barat use to substantiate his Ted Talk?

He uses ethos because he is a Hazara and he personally fled his country to escape persecution. He risked his own life in the journey. He uses pathos by showing images of people who have been injured and people he spent time together with who died on his pilgrimage as an asylum seeker. He said the suffering seemed like something out of a movie. He felt like he was documenting his own death.