Senior English Name:

Practice Explication

We are going to work through the following passages in three ways—as a whole group, as a small group and individually. You will submit your individual passage at the end of the period for feedback. Carefully read the passage. Look closely at the words Hosseini uses. Annotate your passage. Make a note of any literary devices Hosseini uses. Which are the strongest or most effective? Are there words that stand out? Why? What do these words convey? Once you have noted the literary aspects of the passage, begin to draw some conclusions about these choices. How do these choices help to create meaning in the passage? Then, work to craft a couple paragraphs analyzing these choices. You’ll need to move through the passage sentence by sentence to do this.

**Passage One**

“They sat on folding chairs outside and ate *halwa* with their fingers from a common bowl. They had a second cup, and when Laila asked her if she wanted a third, Mariam said she did. As gunfire cracked in the hills, they watched the clouds slide over the moon and the last of the season’s fireflies charting bright yellow arcs in the dark. And when Aziza woke up crying and Rasheed yelled for Laila to come up and shut her up, a look passed between Laila and Mariam. An unguarded, knowing look. And in this fleeting, wordless exchange with Mariam, Laila knew that they were not enemies any longer” (250).

**Passage Two**

“’All I ask in return, well, it is a simple thing. I ask that you avoid leaving the house without my company. That’s all. Simple, no? If I am away and you need something urgently, I mean *absolutely* need it and cannot wait for me, then you can send Mariam and she will go out and get it for you. You’ve noticed the discrepancy, surely. Well, one does not drive a Volga and a Benz in the same manner’” (223).

**Passage Three**

“When she was done speaking, her heart was hammering and her mouth felt parched. Mariam had never before spoken in this manner, had never stated her will so forcefully. It ought to have felt exhilarating, but the girl’s eyes had teared up and her face was drooping, and what satisfaction Mariam found from this outburst felt meager, somehow illicit” (226).