

	the orphanage when Amir grabs and clings onto Baba's hat. This also shows how proud of his father he is and how he is constantly trying to prove himself to him. We find out that Amir's mother was called Sofia Akrami and that she was a <i>"highly educated woman"</i> who was considered to be <i>"one of Kabul's most respected, beautiful and virtuous ladies"</i>. We realise that she was a descendant of the royal family and taught Farsi literature at the university. Rahim Khan constantly attempts to defend and encourage Amir, as well as highlighting Baba's own selfishness. Rahim Khan has a fatherly bond with Amir, and he criticises Baba for wanting Amir to have a <i>"mean streak"</i> or be <i>"violent"</i>.
Context	Men are expected to be the honourable heads of the family in Afghan culture, earning a living to support many children and family members. For example, Baba owns and runs with Rahim Khan <i>"a wildly successful carpet-exporting business, two pharmacies and a restaurant"</i>. Men also need to be able to protect and defend their family in such a hostile environment, as they are treated as superior to women (who are expected to raise children and submit to a life of domesticity). Resilient toughness and courage is needed.
Afghan vocabulary	Laaf = Afghan word for exaggeration Kofta = meatballs - popular snack served in naan Namaz = daily prayers Qayamat = Judgement day Zakat = the Muslim belief in donating money to the poor. Hajj = Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah.