**Iqbal Novel Study Name: Joshua L. 8-14**

**Quotable Passages Date: January 31, 2012**

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15 marks**

There are many quotable passages from chapter 7 in *Iqbal*. Below are four important quotes.

**You must respond critically to Passage 1 and Passage 4. Then choose either Passage 2 OR 3 to reflect on**.

In your response, consider commenting on some of the following: special meaning, connection to a character’s thoughts and feelings, or why this quote makes you think and want to know more.

You can write your response directly beneath the passage.

**\* PASSAGE 1**

**“It means that this kind of life isn’t right. We should return to our families; we shouldn’t be chained to our looms and forced to work like slaves.” Page 50**

RESPONSE:

In my opinion, there are a few significances in this passage. First, I will talk about the first sentence of the passage. When Iqbal said that this life isn’t right, the life of a child labourer, I think the significance is that children should not be working at a very young age. All children have the right to play and have fun and they aren’t given that. So now his standing up for what he believes in. The second part talks about how they should return to their families. I think the significance of that statement is that children deserve to be loved and respected. However, not all children have this. Instead, they are mistreated and malnourished. They are also kept away from their families so they can pay off their debt, but this isn’t right. Thirdly, it talks about children, child labourers to be exact, and how they shouldn’t be chained to their looms. In our community, people don’t get chained, animals do. Therefore, the masters are treating the children like animals. It’s very inhumane. You don’t see children chained to their desks while they’re working. We don’t do that here. Apparently, not all children are respected and taken care of. Lastly, Iqbal said they are forced to work like slaves. Well slaves work without getting paid. Typically, you see slaves getting punished and hurt by their masters and that’s very true. They are often mistreated and not given enough food to survive. When you are a slave, your masters will think “Oh, they’re just slaves. They can be easily replaced.” It’s so ridiculous, very unacceptable. In my opinion, these are the significances that are talked about in this passage.

**PASSAGE 2**

**‘There was a precise rule among us: *Never* talk about the future. Not a single one of us dared to say, “next summer,” or “in a year,” or, “when I’m grown up.” Oh yes, we talked about things we liked to do, and we talked about the day our debt would be cancelled. We talked that hope into the ground. But nobody really believed it. It was sort of litany, a way to feel good. Otherwise what was left to us?’ Page 53**

**PASSAGE 3**

**“Fatima,” he said in a low voice, “next spring you and I are going to fly a kite. Remember that, whatever happens.” Page 54**

RESPONSE: PASSAGE 2

If you asked me, I think the significance is that the child labourers are too hurt to talk about their futures. I think they’ve lost hope of getting out of that carpet factory and away from that cruel Hussain Khan. However, Iqbal does. He has something that the others quite don’t have. He has confidence. He is brave and defiant. He will never give up until they are free of their debt. Although they are hurt, they still talk about what they would like to do and the day their debts will be cancelled. They talk about it so they can make themselves feel better, but no one really believed it. They have lost hope, but Iqbal hasn’t quite given up yet and he is trying to bring them up by giving them confidence.

**\* Chapter 8 - PASSAGE 4**

**‘Before Iqbal’s arrival I had been resigned to my life. I couldn’t even imagine a different one. Iqbal had sown the seeds of hope in all of us.’ Page 62**

RESPONSE:

In my opinion, the significance is that since Iqbal came to the factory, the children were given a new life. Before he arrived, the children were thinking nothing will change and they will just stay in the carpet factory until Hussain Khan kicks them out. Iqbal had risked his life to show the others that if he can do it, then they can do it, too. (The author purposely used the term “sown” because Iqbal putting hope in all of the children is kind of like being a farmer and growing plants. Iqbal and the farmer both care for and nurture the work they have done and make sure they grow properly. Iqbal had sown seeds of hope in all of his friends and as you can see, it’s starting to grow.) In the passage, it said “Iqbal had sown the seeds of hope in all of us” which simply means that Iqbal had given hope to the others and they’re learning to be more confident. I think that’s very brave of Iqbal. He’s going against the master to gain freedom for him and his friends. Someday, I would want to be like Iqbal. I want to be brave and outspoken so I could stand up for others.