“The Kite”
Questions for Discussion

1. What is the first thing one sees in the movie (the opening shot)? How does this view set up the theme of the movie?

2. What does Lamia do when the kite gets stuck on the other side of the border? What does this tell us about Lamia?

3. Describe Lamia’s personality.

4. How is Lamia’s marriage arranged? What complicates the arrangements?

5. Why does Lamia not want to get married? (How does the viewer know about her feelings?) Why does she agree to get married anyway?

6. What are her mother’s feelings about the marriage? Her brother’s?

7. Why does Jamile tell Amira (Lamia’s mother) to let the girl get married? What has happened in Jamile’s own life to make her give this advice?

8. Describe the personality of the Israeli soldier stationed on the border (Youssef). Why does his superior officer get frustrated with him?

9. What are the contradictions/ambiguities of Youssef’s position? The commanding officer, an Israeli, says derisively to Youssef and his Druze colleagues: “Over there is the border. That village is your enemy. I know that they’re your cousins and relations. But now they’re your enemies. This is Israel. Even if you’re Arabs and Druze, you’re Israelis and soldiers now.” Why does Youssef struggle with his duty to be tough on “those people” across the border?

10. How is the aunt’s suitor’s unhappiness juxtaposed throughout? (What is the meaning of his relationship with the girl who he thinks is named Tania and whose nationality he can’t ever remember?)

11. How does the border “move,” and what implications does that have?
12. What problems do Lamia, her new husband, and her new in-laws face when Lamia marries Samy?

13. What do you think about Samy? Why is the situation unfair to him as well?

14. What (and whom) is Lamia dreaming about? What happens when she gets the binoculars to see her mother?

15. Why doesn’t Lamia want to go back to her family, and why doesn’t Youssef want her to go either?

16. What happens between her and Youssef when she crosses the border to return home?

17. When Lamia is sent back to her family, how does this create difficulties for her and her family? What happens when one of the shopkeepers snubs her?

18. How do you interpret the end of the movie?