

SIDDHARTHA by Hermann Hesse - Sophomore Summer Reading

S = Siddhartha

The Brahmin's Son

What did Siddhartha learn while living in his father's household?
Why was S unhappy living in his father's household?
What is the Atman which S so desires to find?

With the Samanas

Who are the Samanas?
What was S's goal as a Samana?
What did S learn among the Samanas?
What did S feel he had not learned among the Samanas?

Gotama

How did S and Govinda recognize the Buddha?
What does S indicate he learned in having met the Buddha?

Awakening

What is S's realization at this stage?

Kamala

S also realizes that one can find the Self only through experience.
Why is this so?
Kamala tells S that a life of pleasure—with her—will require a lot of what?
What does S see as his great strength and ability?

Amongst the People

What was S's attitude toward conducting Kamaswami's business affairs?
Where was S's real interest?
What did Kamala teach S about pleasure and love?
What does S realize is strange in his life?

Samsara

As he continued in his life of business and pleasure, what happened to S?
What does S dream?
What does S then do?

By the River

What feelings, what thoughts did S have as he stood by the river?
What was he tempted to do? And why did he not carry this out?
What is the significance of Om in this context?
Why does Govinda not recognize S?
What new attitude does S have?

The Ferryman

What significance does the river come to have for S?
How does this differ from the attitude of those who see the river merely as an obstacle?
How does S relate to Vasudeva, the ferryman?
Why does Kamala come to the ferry with the young Siddhartha?

The Son

What pain does the young S cause his father?
Why does S conduct himself in such a controlled way in dealing with his son?
What is Vasudeva's advice to S regarding how he deals with his son?
In what way does this experience help S to grow? How does it bring him closer to ordinary people?

Om

What great change in consciousness comes over S?
When S confides in Vasudeva, he has what sense/awareness of Vasudeva?
Now when S listens to the river, he hears what?

Govinda

What advice does S give to Govinda in his (G's) search for enlightenment?
S concludes that the most important thing is what?