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***Siddhartha***

BY HERMANN HESSE



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ISBN 978-1-60389-294-0

Item No. 201113

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All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *Siddhartha*, published 2005.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part One, Chapter 1: The Son of the Brahman****Style**

**Objectives:**     Recognizing an author's style  
                         Understanding how style contributes to atmosphere

**Activity**

Read the first paragraph. As you read, pay attention to the rhythm created by the frequent use of three sets of items, either nouns, adjectives, phrases, or clauses. How does the author's method add to the atmosphere of the opening of the novella or detract from it? Have you encountered similar styles in previous reading? What did you feel about that?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part One, Chapter 3: Gotama****Summarizing**

Objective: Summarizing

**Activity**

Briefly summarize the first three chapters keeping in mind Hesse's affection for the symphony of three.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two, Chapter 1: Kamala**

**Group Work**

**Objective:** Recognizing and appreciating the personal and social significance of Siddhartha's shift from asceticism to hedonism

**Activity**

Hesse, on page 46 writes, "All of this had always existed, and he had not seen it; he had not been with it." Explore and discuss the temptations and difficulties you face in today's society—to live a certain way, to do certain things, to join certain groups. Siddhartha's experience may be similar to yours or you may experience something else entirely. Are you a vegetarian when once you were not? Do you pray, but you did not previously? Are you neat, but once you were messy?

After discussing your findings, realizations, expectations, beliefs, etc., make a list to present to the class of how members of the group have changed. Make enough copies for all groups to share. Names should not be used.

**SAMPLE LIST OF PERSONAL CHANGES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Was</b>	<b>Is</b>	<b>Will Be</b>
Student A	Drunk	Sober	Sober
Student B	Studied	Lazy	Poorly employed
Student C	Apathetic	Concerned	Charitable
Student D	Solitary	Popular	Well-liked

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two, Chapter 3: Samsara****Style II**

**Objective:** Understanding the concept of style and recognizing the elements that characterize it

**Activity**

Read the following selection from Part 2, Chapter 3, page 65. Fill in the style chart provided and then write an essay describing Hesse's writing style. Be sure to include such items as vocabulary usage, tone, imagery, and sentence structure.

"Fatigue had come slowly over Siddhartha like a veil or a fine mist; it became a bit denser every day, a bit murkier every month, a bit heavier each year. As a new dress in time becomes old, loses its beautiful color, gets stains and wrinkles, becomes worn at the seams, and becomes threadbare in spots here or there, Siddhartha's new life after he separated from Govinda had become old, losing color and splendor as the years went by, or gathering wrinkles and stains, and showing ugliness here or there. Hidden at the bottom, disappointment and disgust were waiting; Siddhartha did not notice it. He noticed only that the bright and reliable voice inside of him that had woken him up in that time and had always guided him in his best times had become silent."

Hesse reinforces the mystical nature of Siddhartha's quest using extended metaphors and similes, a combination of short and long sentences, the repetition of phrases and clauses, and relatively simple vocabulary.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two, Chapter 8: Govinda****Writing****Objective:** Using the imagination**Activity**

Compose a set of e-mails between Siddhartha and Govinda that might be written in the years after the novel has ended. Try to assume the character of both people and apply this to the way you write and what you say.