

**Directions: Answer the following questions with your group in complete sentences. Use textual evidence to support answers when applicable.
EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN COPY OF THE ANSWERS.**

Chapter One--Son of the Brahman

1. Based on the descriptions in chapter one and what you learned about Hinduism in World History, what is a Brahman? Where are they in the caste system? What about the Semanas?
2. Why does Siddhartha's dad react the way he does when he finds out Siddhartha wants to join the Semanas? How does this conflict with traditional beliefs of Hinduism?
3. Describe Siddhartha and Govinda's relationship. How does it compare to other relationship(s) that we've read about?
4. Does Siddhartha seem satisfied with his life? Why or why not? If not, how does Siddhartha hope to become satisfied?
5. In the first chapter of *Siddhartha*, describe Siddhartha's education up to this point in his life. How does his education compare to your own education?

Chapter Two--Life with the Semanas

1. Beyond appearance and illusion is reality. What is the reality that the Semanas seek?
2. Characterize nirvana. What does it mean and how is it attained?
3. In the context of this chapter, what is the difference between "myself" and "my self"? Does Siddhartha make sense when he says he tried to "free my self" from "myself"?
4. As a Semana, Siddhartha says that as he sought Atman in meditation, he lost his self. How is this different from conquering his self or freeing his self? Which version aligns more closely to the idea of Nirvana?
5. If there was no sense of self, would there be the idea of identity? Why or why not?

Chapter Three--Gotama

1. What is Siddhartha's opinion of Gotama? Consider all of the relevant information/descriptions given.
2. What does Gotama teach about the nature of life and the world?
3. How does Siddhartha react to Govinda's decision to follow Gotama? Note that Govinda takes an oath to the Buddha. He *belongs* to him now. Given what you know about Govinda, what is *your* opinion of this renouncing?
4. What aspect of the Buddha's teachings does Siddhartha admire?
5. Paraphrase Gotama's advice about opinions.
6. What is the goal of Gotama's teachings? What is NOT the goal?

Chapter Five & Six Kamala, and With the Childlike People

1. Describe Kamala. How is she Siddhartha's teacher? Compare her to his other teachers. What makes her different? Is the knowledge Siddhartha receives from Kamala more or less beneficial/important than the knowledge he gained from the Semanas and Gotama?
2. How is it that neither Siddhartha nor Kamala can love—even though their relationship is the whole sum, substance, and meaning to their life at this point in their life's path?
3. Why is it easy for Siddhartha to obtain clothes and money? How is it that he acts "without traces" with respect to these things?
4. Why does Siddhartha speak of himself in the third-person? I.e., Siddhartha says, "Siddhartha can wait calmly, he knows no impatience, he knows no emergency?"

Chapter Seven--Samsara

1. Complete and explain the analogy between the potter's wheel and Samsara. What is Samsara?
2. Explain the despair inherent in the "game-playing" attitude toward life. Why isn't the game of Samsara a game worth playing?
3. What is the significance of the bird in both scenarios it is mentioned?
4. During this time period, do you think Siddhartha's education continued or became stagnant? Explain your reasoning.
5. What is an epiphany and what is the effect of epiphany within this chapter?

Chapters 4-7 Assignment

Directions: You all were to have read chapters 4-7 and then answer the corresponding questions for the reading. In your groups, create a set of [Bloom's Taxonomy questions](#). There are six levels of critical thinking questions according to Bloom's, so your group should come up with one question per level of thinking. You can find Taxonomy Stems [here](#).

Chapters 8-10

1. Siddhartha somewhat awkwardly offers the reason "I must learn to handle the boat" as a motive for being Vasudeva's assistant. Since the reason offered is superficial, what, in all probability, does Siddhartha genuinely seek?
2. Vasudeva intimates that he is holy. Interpret Vasudeva's metaphor of the river with respect to holiness. When does a life become sacred?
3. Why does Vasudeva accept Siddhartha as his assistant?
4. In what manner would the river not be an obstacle to travelers?
5. Explain the idea that there is no suffering without time.
6. Why was Kamala's seeing Siddhartha just as sacred a pilgrimage as seeing Gotama, the perfected one?

