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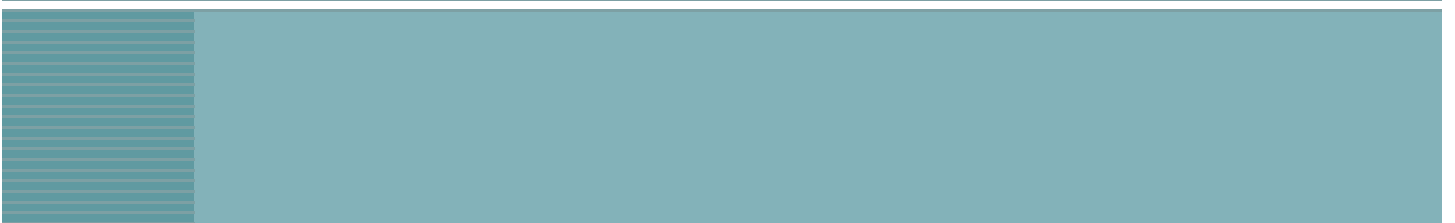
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TEACHER'S PET PUBLICATIONS

LITPLAN TEACHER PACK™

for

SIDDHARTHA

based on the novel by  
Hermann Hesse

Written by  
Susan Woodward

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## INTRODUCTION *Siddhartha*

This LitPlan has been designed to develop students' reading, writing, thinking, and language skills through exercises and activities related to *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse. It includes seventeen lessons, supported by extra resource materials.

The **introductory lesson** introduces students to Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey. Following the introductory activity, students are given a transition to explain how the activity relates to the book they are about to read. Following the transition, students are given the materials they will be using during the unit. At the end of the lesson, students begin the pre-reading work for the first reading assignment.

The **reading assignments** are approximately thirty pages each; some are a little shorter while others are a little longer. Students have approximately 15 minutes of pre-reading work to do prior to each reading assignment. This pre-reading work involves reviewing the study questions for the assignment and doing some vocabulary work for selected vocabulary words they will encounter in their reading.

The **study guide questions** are fact-based questions; students can find the answers to these questions right in the text. These questions come in two formats: short answer or multiple choice. The best use of these materials is probably to use the short answer version of the questions as study guides for students (since answers will be more complete), and to use the multiple choice version for occasional quizzes.

The **vocabulary work** is intended to enrich students' vocabularies as well as to aid in the students' understanding of the book. Prior to each reading assignment, students will complete a two-part worksheet for selected vocabulary words in the upcoming reading assignment. Part I focuses on students' use of general knowledge and contextual clues by giving the sentence in which the word appears in the text. Students are then to write down what they think the words mean based on the words' usage. Part II nails down the definitions of the words by giving students dictionary definitions of the words and having students match the words to the correct definitions based on the words' contextual usage. Students should then have an understanding of the words when they meet them in the text.

After each reading assignment, students will go back and formulate answers for the study guide questions. Discussion of these questions serves as a **review** of the most important events and ideas presented in the reading assignments.

After students complete reading the work, there is a **vocabulary review** lesson which pulls together all of the fragmented vocabulary lists for the reading assignments and gives students a review of all of the words they have studied.

Following the vocabulary review, a lesson is devoted to the **extra discussion questions/writing assignments**. These questions focus on interpretation, critical analysis, and personal response, employing a variety of thinking skills and adding to the students' understanding of the novel.

There are three **writing assignments** in this unit, each with the purpose of informing, persuading, or expressing personal opinions. Introspection journal entries will be converted into a poetic reflection of the students' personal journeys towards self-knowledge. Students will also complete a poetry analysis and relate the poets' messages to themes in *Siddhartha*. In the persuasive assignment, students will take a position on Siddhartha's decision regarding his son and defend the position with textual support from the novel and the Four Noble Truths.

There is a non-fiction **reading assignment**. Students must read non-fiction articles, books, etc. to gather information about their themes in our world today.

The **review lesson** pulls together all of the aspects of the unit. The teacher is given four or five choices of activities or games to use which all serve the same basic function of reviewing all of the information presented in the unit.

The **unit test** comes in two formats: multiple choice or short answer. As a convenience, two different tests for each format have been included. There is also an advanced short answer unit test for advanced students.

There are additional **support materials** included with this unit. The **Unit Resource Materials** section includes suggestions for an in-class library, crossword and word search puzzles related to the novel, and extra worksheets. There is a list of **bulletin board ideas** which gives the teacher suggestions for bulletin boards to go along with this unit. In addition, there is a list of **extra class activities** the teacher could choose from to enhance the unit or as a substitution for an exercise the teacher might feel is inappropriate for his/her class. **Answer keys** are located directly after the **reproducible student materials** throughout the unit. The **Vocabulary Resource Materials** section includes similar worksheets and games to reinforce the vocabulary words.

The **level** of this unit can be varied depending upon the criteria on which the individual assignments are graded, the teacher's expectations of his/her students in class discussions, and the formats chosen for the study guides, quizzes and test. If teachers have other ideas/activities they wish to use, they can usually easily be inserted prior to the review lesson.

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## UNIT OBJECTIVES *Siddhartha*

1. While reading Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*, students will work both independently and in cooperative groups.
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the text on four levels: factual, interpretive, critical, and personal.
3. Students will spend time in personal reflection, examining their own personal growth and self-knowledge.
4. Students will practice reading aloud and silently to improve their skills in each area.
5. Students will answer questions to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the main events and characters in *Siddhartha* as they relate to the author's theme development.
6. Students will enrich their vocabularies and improve their understanding of the novel through the vocabulary lessons prepared for use in conjunction with the novel.
7. The writing assignments are geared to several purposes:
  - a. To have students demonstrate their abilities to inform, persuade, express their own personal ideas, or be creative
  - b. To check students' reading comprehension
  - c. To make students think about ideas presented in the novel
  - d. To encourage logical thinking
  - e. To provide an opportunity for students to practice good grammar and improve their use of standard, written English
8. Students will read aloud, report, and participate in large and small group discussions to improve their public speaking and personal interaction skills.

## STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS *Siddhartha*

### **Assignment 1**

#### Chapters 1-2

1. Who is Govinda?
2. How do the people of Siddhartha's home town feel about him?
3. What has caused Siddhartha "to feel the seeds of discontent within him"?
4. When Siddhartha first leaves home, where does he want to go to try to acquire more knowledge?
5. Who accompanies Siddhartha on his journey to become Samana?
6. What changes that take place in Siddhartha while on the road with the Samanas?
7. What is Siddhartha's "one single goal" on his first journey?
8. With what two animals did Siddhartha associate himself through practicing "self-denial and meditation according to the Samana rules"?
9. Identify Gotama.
10. How does Siddhartha prove that he has mastered all that the Samana could teach him?

### **Assignment 2**

#### Chapters 3-4

1. What is Jetavana?
2. By what qualities do Siddhartha and Govinda recognize the Buddha?
3. Why is Siddhartha not very curious about the teachings of the Buddha?
4. What is Siddhartha's response to Govinda's question about following the Buddha?
5. What does the Buddha warn Siddhartha to be on his guard against?
6. What separates Govinda and Siddhartha?
7. What does Siddhartha realize has left him "like the old skin that a snake sheds"?
8. What realization gives Siddhartha the feeling of awakening from a long dream?
9. After Siddhartha decides not to join the Buddha's community, from whom does he choose to learn?
10. After Siddhartha leaves Jetavana grove, where does he initially intend to go?

### **Assignment 3**

#### Chapters 5-6

1. When Siddhartha decides to be "present" in the world, what does he begin to notice about it?
2. After leaving the presence of the Buddha, what is it that Siddhartha believes he must gain for himself?
3. What does Siddhartha's dream as he slept in the ferryman's straw hut.
4. The ferryman tells Siddhartha that one can learn much from something. What?
5. When Siddhartha is tempted by the woman in the village, what stops him from proceeding?
6. Who is Kamala?

## STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY *Siddhartha*

### Assignment 1

#### Chapters 1-2

1. Who is Govinda?  
*Govinda is Siddhartha's friend. He is the son of a Brahmin.*
2. How do the people of Siddhartha's home town feel about him?  
*The townspeople admire and love Siddhartha.*
3. What has caused Siddhartha "to feel the seeds of discontent within him"?  
*Siddhartha believes that he has obtained all the knowledge that his father and teachers can offer, but it is not enough.*
4. When Siddhartha first leaves home, where does he want to go to try to acquire more knowledge?  
*He wants to travel with the ascetics and become a Samana.*
5. Who accompanies Siddhartha on his journey to become Samana?  
*Govinda accompanies Siddhartha.*
6. What changes take place in Siddhartha while on the road with the Samanas?  
*He becomes thin from fasting, his nails grow long, he gives away his clothes, he snarls at women, and he looks at well-dressed people with contempt.*
7. What is Siddhartha's "one single goal" on his first journey?  
*He wishes to let the Self die.*
8. With what two animals did Siddhartha associate himself through practicing "self-denial and meditation according to the Samana rules"?  
*Siddhartha compares himself to the heron and the jackal.*
9. Identify Gotama.  
*Gotama is the Illustrious One, the Buddha who has reportedly attained Nirvana and wanders the countryside preaching. Govinda follows him, but Siddhartha chooses not to.*
10. How does Siddhartha prove that he has mastered all that the Samana could teach him?  
*Siddhartha hypnotizes the eldest Samana, proving that he has mastered all that the Samana could teach him.*

### Assignment 2

#### Chapters 3-4

1. What is Jetavana?  
*It is the Buddha's favorite place to stay, which had been given to him by Anathapindika.*
2. By what qualities do Siddhartha and Govinda recognize the Buddha?  
*They recognize him only by his complete peacefulness of demeanor, by the stillness of his form, in which there was no seeking, no will, no counterfeit, no effort--only light and peace.*
3. Why is Siddhartha not very curious about the teachings of the Buddha?  
*He does not think the Buddha can teach him anything new.*
4. What is Siddhartha's response to Govinda's question about following the Buddha?  
*Siddhartha blesses Govinda and wishes him well but says he will not be joining the Buddha's company.*
5. What does the Buddha warn Siddhartha to be on his guard against?  
*The Buddha warns Siddhartha to be on his guard against too much cleverness.*