

***Siddhartha*: Chapter 1 Reading / Study Guide**

I. Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel. Also, be prepared to be quizzed on these words.

sallow: sickly, yellowish color

ablutions: washing or cleansing of the body, esp. as part of a religious rite

ardent: enthusiastic

ascetic: person who stays away from comforts and pleasures for religious reasons

vocation: job, occupation

atonement: repayment made for a wrongdoing

supplication: act of making a humble request; pray humbly

sage: *n.* wise person; *adj.* wise

blanch: to make pale

II. Background

Atman: universal spirit; universal soul.

Prajapati: a Vedic god personifying a creative force that evolves all things from itself.

Upanishads: Philosophical texts the Hindu religion

Sama Veda: second of the four Vedas, or ancient core Hindu scriptures

Samanas: wandering ascetics from India

III. Questions: answer the following questions while you read to check your comprehension.

1. What did Siddhartha know how to do?
2. What did Govinda know about Siddhartha?
3. What did Siddhartha begin to feel?

4. What does the narrator say about Siddhartha's vessel?

4B. What rhetorical device is being employed in the discussion of vessel?

5. What is the one and only important thing to know?

6. Who passes through Siddhartha's town?

7. What does Siddhartha announce to Govinda?

8. What is Siddhartha's father's initial response to Siddhartha's request to leave?

9. What does Siddhartha do to convince his father?

10. Who follows Siddhartha?