

Name _____

Date _____

Siddhartha
“The Ferryman” (chpt. 9): Reading 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.

apprentice: person who works for another in order to learn a trade

keen: sharp

dispel: to drive away; get rid of

emanate: to come from or out of

precocious: showing mature qualities at an unusually early age

pallid: pale

pyre: pile for burning a dead body

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

1. What is the first secret that Siddhartha learns from the river?
2. What does Siddhartha offer to do with his clothes?
3. How many years does the ferryman think it has been since he last saw Siddhartha?
4. What is the ferryman’s name?
5. The ferryman says that Siddhartha will learn to listen from whom?
6. What does one have to do to conquer all difficulties and evil in the world?
7. What word does the river pronounce when all of its ten thousand voices speak at the same time?

8. What sometimes would happen when a traveler looked at the face of either Siddhartha or the ferryman?
9. Why were so many monks crossing the river?
10. How does Siddhartha judge his words that he said to Gotama many years ago?
11. Where is Kamala on her way to see?
12. Why does Kamala scream out in pain?
13. What does Kamala ask Siddhartha if he found?
14. What bed did Kamala die on?
15. What do Vasudeva and Siddhartha set out to do with Kamala?