

Siddhartha Essay

Siddhartha, the handsome and respected son of a Brahmin, lives with his father in ancient India. Everyone in the village expects Siddhartha to be a successful Brahmin like his father. Siddhartha enjoys a near-idyllic existence with his best friend, Govinda, but he is secretly dissatisfied. He performs all the rituals of religion, and he does what religion says should bring him happiness and peace. Nonetheless, he feels something is missing. His father and the other elders have still not achieved enlightenment, and he feels that staying with them will not settle the questions he has about the nature of his existence. Siddhartha believes his father has already passed on all the wisdom their community has to offer, but he longs for something more.

The novel ends with Govinda returning to the river to seek enlightenment by meeting with a wise man who lives there. When Govinda arrives, he does not recognize that the wise man is Siddhartha himself. Govinda is still a follower of Gotama but has yet to attain the kind of enlightenment that Siddhartha now radiates, and he asks Siddhartha to teach him what he knows. Siddhartha explains that neither he nor anyone can teach the wisdom to Govinda, because verbal explanations are limited and can never communicate the entirety of enlightenment. Instead, he asks Govinda to kiss him on the forehead, and when Govinda does, the vision of unity that Siddhartha has experienced is communicated instantly to Govinda. Govinda and Siddhartha have both finally achieved the enlightenment they set out to find in the days of their youth.

Please respond to the following prompts in a 5 paragraph essay:

In a well analyzed essay, please describe the importance of Siddhartha's Journey in three distinct stages 1. Preparation for life / The first 20 years, 2. Experiencing Life /The Material World, 3. Adulthood /The Spiritual World. *(Keep in mind that the journey from childhood to adulthood is a time of growth and tradition for people in all cultures. While every culture has unique traditions; however, people are more alike than different.)*

Your essay must have a minimum of the following:

1. Well organized introduction that begins with a hook: **a Key quote from the book Siddhartha.**
2. A thesis that responds fully to the prompt and is located at the end of the introductory paragraph. Your thesis should always be in one sentence. **Your thesis must be highlighted.** - Please review Thesis handout, if you have questions.
3. Always write about literature in **present tense**. Example: *Siddhartha is described as a leader not Siddhartha was described as a leader*
4. Body paragraphs must begin with a transition and a **topic sentence**. *While Siddhartha is as a true friend to Govinda in the first years of his life, he must leave Govinda in his middle years to find his true path on his own*
 - a. Three Body paragraphs include two quotes from our text that support your thesis followed by clear analysis not summary. **Analysis answers why the quote is important.**
5. MLA Citations after all quotes - Example - (Hesse 7).
6. Paragraphs must be at least 5 complete sentences in length *[not including quotes]*. So about 10 - 12 sentences total is a good guess.
7. Do not use second person (*you, our, we, us*). Do not use contractions (*can't - cannot* or *you're - you are* etc.).
8. A thoughtful conclusion that does not start a new essay, use quotes or ask questions.
9. Grammar, syntax and diction do count.