

Name:

Date:

Hour:

The action of the novel moves chronologically and follows Siddhartha on his journey through all stages of life – from childhood to adulthood. The chapters can be organized according to Siddhartha’s stages of development.

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| <u>Chapters 1-2</u> The Brahmin’s Son With the Samanas | <i>Spiritual Innocence</i> | } | <i>Preparation for Life</i> <i>First 20 years</i> |
| <u>Chapters 3-4</u> Gotama Awakening | <i>Spiritual Awakening</i> | | |
| <u>Chapters 5-6</u> Kamala Amongst the People | <i>Sensual Existence</i> | } | <i>Experiencing Life</i> <i>Material World</i> |
| <u>Chapters 7-8</u> Samsara By the River | <i>Material World</i> | | |
| <u>Chapters 9-10</u> The Ferryman The Son | <i>Spiritual Quest</i> | } | <i>Adulthood</i> <i>Spiritual World</i> |
| <u>Chapters 11-12</u> Om Govinda | <i>Redemption</i> | | |

Siddhartha – Chapter 8 – BY THE RIVER

Directions: Make sure your responses are in complete sentences AND all parts of the question are fully answered.

1. What is signified by the fact that Siddhartha goes into the forest and eventually becomes unconscious beside a river?
2. Discuss the images Hesse uses to show that Siddhartha is overcome by sadness and guilt. What lesson from his youth rescues him from this despair?
3. What do you think the “Om” means in this passage? Have you ever tried to do the “Om” exercise? Try it.

4. What is signified by the long sleep that follows this crisis in Siddhartha's journey?

5. Does it seem coincidental that he is discovered by his old friend Govinda? *HINT: This coincidental plot elements suggest that Govinda may actually be a symbolic figure.* What might he represent? Is the meaning of the character here the same as his "shadow" role in the opening chapters?

6. The conversation between Siddhartha and Govinda is one of the most important sections of the novel. Compare what the two friends have learned. What are their philosophies of life?

7. Explain what Siddhartha has learned about his past. Examine the last three paragraphs of this chapter and try to imagine Siddhartha's feelings.

8. Discuss the "wheel" of Siddhartha's life.