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English Literature - Analytical Literature Review

TITLE: Siddhartha

AUTHOR: Herman Hesse

<p>Historical context - what do you know about the author's time (political, social, philosophical) that is relevant to the text and its theme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During WWI & WWII• Eastern Religion		
<p>Setting - location, region, country, historical period - how does setting influence characterization? How does setting influence theme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ancient India• During time of Buddha <p>This helps the reader picture the time period that Siddhartha is in and makes it easier to get a feel of the setting.</p>	<p>Author Biography - what do you know about the author that gives information about the text, its themes, and its significance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Known for his themes of: Spirit + Nature, Body vs. Mind• His family was religious• Lots of expectations from family	
<p>Inciting Incident - what character and/or events cause the conflict? How does the inciting incident inform theme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Himself <p>This shows the reader the importance of finding oneself on your own through lessons.</p>	<p>Internal Conflict - <i>What characters struggle internally? How and why? Does this conflict inform theme?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Siddhartha <p>He wants to find his Enlightenment, and this major conflict set the theme of the piece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Govinda <p>He relied a lot on Siddhartha to find his own Enlightenment, but then Siddhartha left Govinda alone to learn from the Buddha</p>	<p>External Conflict- Between whom/what? Why? How does conflict inform theme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Siddhartha vs. Son <p>His son wants to live on his own, but Siddhartha wants to continue on the path of Enlightenment</p>

Symbolism - abstract or concrete? What are they? How does symbolism inform theme?

- The River

The River represents the constant flowing of life and inner peace, this river helps Siddhartha realize his Enlightenment

Characterization - Name & Analysis of major characters. how and what type - flat/round? Static/dynamic? Stock? Protagonist/Antagonist/Foil? Motivation? Attitudes? How does characterization inform theme?

- Siddhartha
 - Round
 - Dynamic
 - Protagonist
 - Motivation- Positive to find Enlightenment(Independent)
- Govinda
 - Flat
 - Not a main character
 - Motivation- Relies more on others (Dependent)
- The Ferryman
 - Protagonist
 - Uses subtle hints to help Siddhartha
- Buddha
 - Helps Siddhartha with his realization that he can't rely on others
- Kamala
 - Not a main character
 - Helped with a life lesson
- The Son
 - Helped with realization that Siddhartha had to let his son go, like his father once did

Tone - How is the author's and/or speaker's attitude evident in the text?

- Formal

Hesse describes Siddhartha's journey in third person with no attachment

Figurative language and literary devices - what devices are most prominent? What do they mean? How does the meaning relate to the theme?

- Allegorical Novel
- Imagery
- Symbolism

All contribute to the overall theme of the piece: finding oneself

<p>Universal application - What specific themes are relevant to life/the human condition beyond the pages of the text? Answer “so what?” for the themes—why does this text matter?</p>	

Finding your own Enlightenment is important to Siddhartha, so readers should learn from Siddhartha’s life. This text expresses the value of finding yourself through lessons.