

## **Siddhartha – Ch. 1 - Persuasive Essay**

Like many parents, Siddhartha's father tried to protect him from certain things. What sort of things do your parents try to protect you from? Do you think they are right to do this? Why or why not? Write a persuasive essay choosing a side to this topic. Make sure that you address at least one point from the opposing point of view. However, remember that you are trying to persuade the reader that your point of view is the best so choose a side of the argument and stick with it!

**Don't forget to PRE-WRITE!** Underline the directions (what the task is asking you to do in your essay) and figure out your thesis statement and supporting examples before you start writing!

## **Siddhartha – Ch. 4 - Expository Essay**

**Choose one of the following topics to write about:**

#1 “Nowadays, many people in the West try not to think about getting old and dying and spend most of their lives blinding themselves to suffering with trivial pleasures. We need to slow down and face up to the reality of old age and death if we are to have a meaningful life.” How do you think this quote relates to today's society? Using detailed examples write an essay explaining how you think this relates to the society that you live in.

#2 Seeing the wandering holy man inspired Siddhartha to search for a deeper meaning to life. Who inspires you? What are the qualities in them that inspire you and what do they inspire you to do? Write an essay describing the person who inspires you. Use detailed examples to support your point.

## **Siddhartha – Ch. 7 - Biographical Narrative**

The things Siddhartha saw outside the palace shocked him and changed the way he thought about life forever. Write an essay describing an experience in your life that has had a similar effect. How did it affect you? Make sure that you provide specific details to illustrate your experience. Explain why the experience was influential in order to support your point and to address the topic.

**Don't forget to PRE-WRITE!** Underline the directions (what the task is asking you to do in your essay) and figure out your thesis statement and supporting examples before you start writing!

## **Siddhartha – Ch. 10 - Business Letter**

After reading the book *Siddhartha* you should have a good understanding of Siddhartha's personality traits and life skills. Pretend you are Siddhartha and write a Business Letter applying to a college or for a job of your choice. Use what you learned about the character Siddhartha to make a compelling argument to the school or employer. Make sure you format the letter in the appropriate style.

**Don't forget to PRE-WRITE!** Underline the directions (what the task is asking you to do in your essay) and figure out your supporting examples and ideas before you start writing!

# *Siddhartha* – Literary Response

**Read the following passage from *Siddhartha* and respond to the writing task at the end of the passage.**

How strange his life had been, he thought. He had wandered along strange paths. As a boy I was occupied with the gods and sacrifices as a youth with asceticism, with thinking and meditation. I was in search of Brahman and revered the eternal Atman. As a young man I was attracted to expiation. I lived in the woods, suffered heat and cold. I learned to fast, I learned to conquer my body. I then discovered with wonder the teachings of the great Buddha. I felt knowledge and unity of the world circulate in me like my own blood, but I also felt compelled to leave the Buddha and the great knowledge. I went and learned the pleasures of love from Kamala and business from Kamaswami. I hoarded money, I squandered money, I acquired a taste for rich food, I learned to stimulate my senses. I had to spend many years like that in order to lose my intelligence, to lose the power to think, to forget about the unity of things. Is it not true, that slowly and through many deviations I changed from a man into a child? From a thinker into an ordinary person? And yet this path has been good and the bird in my breast has not died.

But what a path it has been! I have had to experience so much stupidity, so many vices, so much error, so much nausea, disillusionment and sorrow, just in order to become a child again and begin anew. But it was right that it should be so; my eyes and heart acclaim it. I had to experience despair, I had to sink to the greatest mental depths, in order to experience grace, to hear Om again, to sleep deeply again and to awaken refreshed again. I had to become a fool again in order to find Atman in myself. I had to sin in order to live again. Where will my path yet lead me? This path is stupid, it goes in spirals, perhaps in circles, but whichever way it goes, I will follow it. He was aware of a great happiness mounting within him...

It was a good thing to experience everything oneself, he thought. As a child I learned that pleasures of the world and riches were not good. I have known it for a long time, but I have only just experienced it. Now I know it not only with my intellect, but with my eyes, with my heart, with my stomach. It is a good thing that I know this...

Siddhartha now also realized why he had struggled in vain with this Self when he was a Brahmin and an ascetic. Too much knowledge had hindered him; too many holy verses, too many sacrificial rites, too much mortification of the flesh, too much doing and striving....

Now he understood it and realized that the inward voice had been right, that no teacher could have brought him salvation. That was why he had to go into the world, to lose himself... That was why he had to undergo those horrible years, suffer nausea... to learn the lesson...

**In this selection Herman Hesse shows the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Write an essay explaining what theme Hesse is trying to convey to the reader about knowledge and wisdom. Use Siddhartha's thoughts and comments from the selection to support your point.**

**Don't forget to PRE-WRITE!** Underline the directions in the writing task (what the task is asking you to do in your essay). Underline the parts of the passage that you think might be useful supporting examples. Figure out your thesis statement and supporting examples before you start writing!

*End of the book*