**Chapter 1: The Son of the Brahman**

1. Why did Siddhartha remain standing? Why didn’t he just leave? Did Siddhartha’s father allow him to leave because, in a sense, Siddhartha had “already left”?

2. What would Siddhartha have done if his father would have said “No” to his request?

3. Why does Siddhartha speak of himself in the third person?

4. Describe Hesse’s style. What is unique about his writing?

5. Since Siddhartha seemed to have everything going for him, why would he be so discontent? Is he simply seeking the independence of adulthood? Would it be for Siddhartha, as Emerson writes, “Discontent is the want of self-reliance; it is infirmity of the will”?

**Chapter 2: With the Samanas**

1. Siddhartha’s goal is to conquer the self. Explain what this means.

2. Explain Siddhartha’s discovery that there are many ways to lose self. Why are they all tricks?

3. Why is Siddhartha unimpressed with the magic arts?

4. Characterize *Nirvana*. What is *Nirvana* and what could it mean for it to be sought?

5. Discuss whether Siddhartha’s vanity prevents his ability to learn abouthimself. He says, “It took me a long time and I am not finished learning this yet, oh Govinda; that there is nothing to be learned! There is indeed no such thing, so I believe, as what we refer to as ‘learning.’” Thomas Szasz notes that learning impacts the ego:

Every act of conscious learning requires the willingness to suffer an

injury to one’s self-esteem. That is why young children, before they

are aware of their own self-importance, learn so easily; and why older

persons, especially if vain or important, cannot learn at all.