**Important vocabulary terms**

**Brahman:** The ultimate reality of the universe or the ultimate essence of all things that cannot be

seen or heard, but may be known through self-knowledge.

**Atman:** Identity of the true self.

**Samana:** Name for a group of wandering ascetics (religious practitioners of contemplation and

self-denial)

**Samsara:** Reincarnation

**Siddhartha Study Guide**

**Characters**

1. Siddhartha
2. Govinda
3. Kamala
4. Kamaswami
5. Vasudeva
6. Gotama

**Siddhartha Project:**

For each chapter, write the following in your notebook:

1. The title & brief summary of the chapter (one paragraph)
2. 2 MVPs: Most Valuable Passages – sections that you felt were important or interesting (including the page numbers) and provide a paragraph for each passage explaining their importance.
3. 2 questions or predictions: questions about things you didn’t understand or predictions about what might come next.

**Discussion Topics**

**These are some things to think about as you read:**

1. How do people feel about Siddhartha throughout his life?
2. How does Govinda’s opinion of him change?
3. How are Siddhartha and Govinda different from each other?
4. What does he learn from each of his “teachers” (the Samanas, the Buddha, Kamala, Kamaswami)?
5. Be prepared to discuss Siddhartha’s desire to follow his inner voice and not follow a teacher.
6. What are the two sides of a person’s being? What happens when a person starves one and feeds the other?
7. What are some important symbols: trees, the river, etc.?
8. Explain the important metaphors: the rock thrown in water on p. 60, children in relationship to people, the Buddha, and Siddhartha, the leaf and shooting star on p. 72, the potter’s wheel on p. 76
9. Be prepared to discuss the dream on page 82. Why does it occur at dawn? What is its significance? Be prepared to discuss the transition that takes place directly after the dream.
10. Discuss the changes in Siddhartha and the significance of Om.