Siddhartha: Starter Questions

1) What is the most impressive quality that human beings possess? Our capacity for reason? Our inventiveness? Our curiosity? Our ability to love? Our ambition? Our artistic skills? Our ability to feel at all? Something else?

2) What are humanity's greatest weaknesses? Are your answers to #s 1 & 2 related?

3) What is most impressive about you?

4) Do your answers to #s 1 & 3 match? (What do you think this means?)

5) What do you feel is your greatest weakness?

6) Do your answers to #s 2 & 5 match? (What do you think this means?)

7) How can we, as people, improve our weaknesses? How can you (on an individual basis) improve your weaknesses? Are you doing this on an everyday basis? If not…well, why aren't you?

8) Which qualities define friendship? Compatibility? Trust? Kindness? What do you find yourself examining while meeting someone for the first time, forming a first impression? In other words, which values do you value in others?

9) *"Yesterday I told you I knew how to think, to wait, and to fast, but you did not consider these useful. But you will see that they are very useful, Kamala…"* (49).

Do you have an overlooked talent or trait that is key to your success? Do you underestimate others? Do others underestimate you?

10) *"From the moment I made that resolution I also knew I would execute it…"* (50).

Do you possess determination and perspective, as Siddhartha apparently does? What are some goals you have achieved in similar fashion?

11) *"That seems to be the way of things. Everyone takes, everyone gives. Life is like that"* (52).

Do you feel this statement is accurate? Convince me – one way or the other – with examples from the text and from your life.

12) How do these questions relate to your personal statements?

13) By dedicating ourselves entirely to an ideal, to the pursuit of one special thing, can we unlock the potential within ourselves to become something greater?

14) Can we transcend who we are? Can we exceed our own expectations? Can we transcend who we want to be?