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### Film Questions

#### **What events led Siddhartha to leave the palace and seek answers to the "pain of existence"?**

Siddhartha went on four trips which showed him what is known as the four signs, exemplifying the pains of the world, which he had been sheltered from. On his journeys he met an old man, a sick man, a corpse, and a begging man. These realities that he came face to face with brought him to an existential crisis that the sufferings of this world reach every person; he was desperate to find a solution. This motivated him to seek answers, leading him down the path of becoming the Buddha.

#### **What challenges did he face in his quest to find enlightenment?**

Many of the challenges he faced stemmed from his growing disbelief in the traditional brahman ideals; he believed that true inner peace should be accessible to all and the caste system went directly against this. He also sought to find the answers by way of meditation and inflicting pain on himself, but he decided that this wasn't the answer. Toward the end of his journey he also faced Mara and other demons of lust, attraction, and aversion; these beings were only evil forces within his own mind.

#### **Describe "the Middle Way" of peace and harmony he sought:**

The middle way was what the Buddha described as a kind of mindful living, that was not too strict and tormenting but also not too focused on wealth and comfortability. One must find the perfect balance; this balance must come by the mindfulness of desire. When kept in check, one will not be ruled by their own passion: this will bring true inner peace