

English 11 Siddhartha **Character Names as Allegory** NAME: _____

This chart explains the symbolic meaning behind the characters' names in the novel. In the empty left-hand column, explain how the events in the novel help this character live up to his/her name.

CHARACTER	MEANING	EXPLANATION
Siddhartha	He who attains his goal.	
Govinda	Keeper of cows—Cows are sacred in Hinduism; thus, his name is interpreted as meaning that he has a religious calling.	
Kamala	Lotus blossom; represents physical love and sensuality/beauty.	
Kamaswami	Combination of “Kama” (love, desire, passion) and “Svamin” (Owner/master). Represents materialism.	
Vasudeva	One who abides in all things and in whom all things abide. His name indicates that he is a god-figure.	

