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The book Siddhartha written by Herman Hesse has been an influential book since the 60's. I read this book in eighth grade and then again senior year. This book has changed my life because in the story Siddhartha proceeds on a journey to reach enlightenment and becoming a man similar to the journey I am on, becoming a man and being more mature.

This book has changed my life because it is very easy to relate the story to my life. Although the setting is around the time of the Buddha, the journey is very similar to that of a man. When I read the book in sixth grade I liked the book but did not capture the true experience of the novel. This was simply because I was not mature enough to realize the hidden message. This book's message is truly breathtaking. The story line is truly inspirational because it tells the story of a monk reaching enlightenment, but at the same time he is becoming more mature and becoming a man. Although the story is about Siddhartha becoming a man and reaching enlightenment, that is not the only journey he partakes in.

Towards the end of the story Siddhartha discovers he has a son. He desperately tries to hold on to his son and have him live with him in the jungle by the river but his son, Siddhartha, doesn't want to. His son desperately fights to leave and live in the city at his mother's house. This also has affected my life because it showed me how to let go. Sometimes it is necessary to let people do what they need to and not what you want. I know that when I have a son or daughter there is going to be a time when I will need to do the same thing as Siddhartha.

Not only does this book have great adventures and journeys but also it is the best book I have ever read. This was the only book that I have read more than once. It was

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also the only book that I have read just for amusement. It was required to read in school but I have read it this past fall for the third time simply because every time I read it I discover something new. As I become more mature the book shows me another way to look at situations. This novel has showed me that there are books out there that are more interesting than the movies and has fueled me to read other books simply for enjoyment.