

Guiding Questions for Reading the *Ramayana*

Student Name _____ Date _____

Below you will find a few questions for each section of the Ramayana. Read each of these questions before you begin to read each section, and then write in an answer as you read.

Section One: The Boyhood of Rama

What does Dasaratha want, and how does he get it? Why does Vishnu decide to give up being a god and be reborn as a human? What kind of a man does Rama become?

Section Two: Life in Ayodhya

Why does Dasaratha banish Rama from the kingdom of Ayodhya? Does Rama wish to go? Who follows Rama into exile? Does Bharata want to be king?

Section Three: The Forest Life

What causes the first battle between Rama and the demons? Why does Ravana decide to pursue Rama and his family in the forest? Should Lakshmana have left Sita alone?

Section Four: Rama's Stay in Kiskindha

Who is Sugriva? Why does he offer to help Rama?

Section Five: Hanuman's Prank

What does Sita tell Ravana? What happens to Hanuman?

Section Six: The Great War

What does Vibhishana do? What does Rama promise Vibhishana? How do Rama, Hanuman and the monkey army get across the ocean to Lanka? How does Ravana trick Sita? What does Indrajit do? How are Rama and his army saved?

Section Seven: Period After Coronation

Why is Rama still unhappy when he returns to Ayodhya? What does he decide to do? What happens to Sita? How does Rama recognize Kusa and Lava? How does Sita prove herself?