

**Upper School English**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**2022-2023**

**11th Grade English**

All students enrolled in 11th Grade English in the fall must read the required text selection below: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Complete the assignments as you work your way through the novel. Your work will be turned in as you return to school and will be used for coursework when you return to school.

**I hope you have a pleasant summer. Please find time for yourself and your loved ones while also taking care of responsibilities.**

**Please contact me via email with any questions.**

**See you in August,**

**Mr. Jones**

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**Required Book**

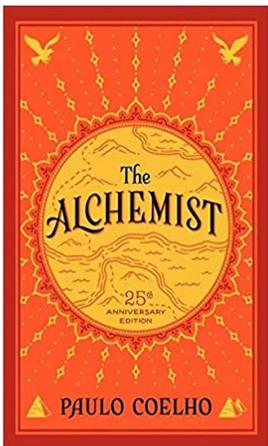
***The Alchemist***

**By Paulo Coelho**

**ISBN-13: 9780062315007**

Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, *The Alchemist* has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations.

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.



## Summer Reading Assignment

### A. Class Context:

- Since analyzing characterization is such an important part of literature, it will be crucial for you to think about how the fascinating characters of *The Alchemist* are developed as we read. Additionally, I want you to contemplate Santiago's life before he sets off on his journey and compare it to your own life.
- Then contemplate his life working at the store while also comparing that to your own expectations to working as a young adult. Evaluate Santiago's decisions throughout the book. Why does Coelho wait so long before introducing the reader to the character of the Alchemist? Should adults and the education system encourage young people to follow their dreams ("personal legend")?
- Theme for this text: The tension between the ideal and the real. Santiago is pursuing his "personal legend." That is his ideal. Annotate the tensions for this character as he pursues his ideal while being faced with certain realities.

### B. Assignments

Assignment 1: Read the book by Coelho. Making annotations throughout concerning the guidance listed above in the "Class Context" paragraphs. Pay close attention to the third bullet.

Assignment 2: Upon completion of your reading, create a list that would constitute your "personal legend." Create a list of experiences and achievements for your life in the following stages: 16-26, 27-55, 56-death. This is a handwritten list and not a written narrative. You will turn this in upon return to school. Use the graphic organizer below as your guide.

Ages 16-26	Ages 27-55	Ages 56-Death

Assignment 3: Complete the following journal assignment using a Google Doc. Make at least 15 entries that ultimately cover the span of the entire novel.

1. For the left hand column, provide a quote or quotes that shed light on what is listed in the "Class Context" above. Ideally, I want you to focus on the theme exploring the tension between the ideal and the real.
2. For the middle column, provide the page number(s) the quote comes from.
3. Explain. See the box below for guidance.

**Converse with the text:** What did you like or dislike about the passage? Why were you drawn to it? What was the emotional response you had to the words? What did it make you think about?

**Analyze:** Why do you think this quote was placed in the book at this point? How does it develop a character or conflict? *You should refer to events before or after the quote to give context for your answer.*

**Explain:** How does the quote / chapter extend beyond the text and to something relevant to a person, community, or society? Explain how this quote and chapter relates to the theme exploring the tension between the ideal and the real.

**\*Recreate the following graphic organizer in a google doc. This doc will be submitted in our class google classroom when you return to school.**

<b>Quotation</b> <b>(At least 15 entries covering the entire novel)</b>	<b>Page #</b>	<b>Converse, Analyze, Evaluate</b>
(type/write the quote you are analyzing here)		Answer the questions from above here in a reflective form.
<p><b>Example:</b></p> <p>“The crystal merchant awoke with the day, and felt the same anxiety that he felt every morning. He had been in the same place for thirty years: a shop at the top of a hilly street where few customers passed. Now it was too late to change anything – the only thing he ever learned to do was ...”</p>	Page 333 “The Afterword”	<p><b>Sample response:</b></p> <p><b>(Respond)</b> This passage hits me in the past, present, and future. I feel differently than the merchant at this stage of my life. Since I have lived and worked in 8 different states, my feelings go in a different direction. I crave stability and routine; I have lived in Dothan for the past six years; I am beginning my second year at HA. I find value in embedding myself deeper into a community and personal routines.</p> <p><b>(Analyze)</b> This passage juxtaposes Santiago’s situation with the Merchant’s. The character of the merchant evolves here so the reader can better understand his internal conflict as he interacts with Santiago. Coelho is developing a complex situation for Santiago as his competence allows him to find personal success while at the same time contributing to a community.</p> <p><b>(Explain)</b> What, ultimately, will the protagonist do: stay in a comfort zone or step outside it to pursue a dream? At which points in life should a person push further in order to achieve his or her “personal legend”? Life is complicated due to the fluctuations of joy, comfort, adversities, competencies, doubts, and so much more. Ideals are constantly confronted with brutal realities that must be measured at a personal level in order to assess one’s own pursuit of a dream.</p>