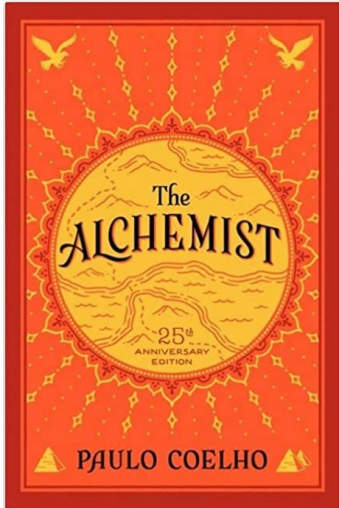




POPE JOHN PAUL II
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ENGLISH 9 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
ISBN 978-0-06-231500-7



Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts. (Amazon)

Before the first day of school, read and annotate *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. You will need to purchase a new copy of the book (already annotated copies are not allowed). An annotation grade will be taken the first week of class. Please keep in mind that annotations include underlines, highlights, and written margin notes on a solid number of pages in the book. (Honors students are expected to have annotations on each page.) For an example of great annotations, click [here](#)!

The first week of school, there will be an annotation grade and a content reading quiz followed by discussions and a written response over the book.

These are things you should consider when annotating:

- Foreshadowing
- Allusions
- Figurative language: similes, metaphors, personification
- What symbols can you find in the story? (objects/characters/places that represent a bigger idea)
- Themes
 - Wisdom and knowledge
 - Humanity and the natural world
 - Dreams, hopes, and plans
 - Fate and free will
 - Love
 - Warfare
 - Language and communication

Teacher Contacts

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