



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Summer Reading Assignment

List five new vocabulary words that you did not know before reading the book. Please include the page numbers from *The Alchemist* and definitions that you looked up yourself. Be sure to cite your source.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

On a separate sheet of paper (typed or handwritten):

Using the attached map, write 1-2 sentences about something that happened to Santiago in each numbered location (you may write something either before or after the oasis stop for #4).

Please answer the following short answer questions with at least 3-5 sentences:

1. Fatima tells Santiago before he leaves that “Before this, I always looked to the desert with longing ... Now it will be with hope” (p.126). What do you think the difference is between hope and longing?
2. On Santiago’s journey with the Alchemist, we learn that both the horse and the falcon can understand the language of the desert. Why do you think it’s important that animals can understand the language of the desert? What does that say about the Soul of the World?
3. At the end of the novel, the boy hears a voice on the wind say: “If I had told you, you wouldn’t have seen the Pyramids. They’re beautiful, aren’t they?” (p. 170) What do you think this quote says about journeys and adventures? How would you interpret the significance of the Pyramids?
4. What do you think your own personal legend might be? What is one thing that you did this summer that is a part of your personal legend?

1. Andalusia,  
Spain

2. Tangier,  
Morocco

4. Sahara Desert

3. Al Fayoum  
Oasis, Egypt

5. The Pyramids

