

## Shawnee Mission West Language Arts

AP English 12, Composition 121 & 122- 2021-2022

Mr. Carter

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Room 30

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**There will not be any summative assessment of the reading until after the second week of school.**

I have selected **ONE** reading experience for us to share:

***The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho***

**You can also find free pdf's of the novel online:**

**<https://archive.org/details/OceanofPDF.comTheAlchemist/page/n51/mode/2up>**

**OR**

**you can purchase a hard copy of the book.**

*The Alchemist* is a philosophical allegory that focuses on identity, perseverance, and the journey of life.

Below are some questions we'll discuss regarding the novel:

1. Do you believe that you have a destiny to fulfill? A treasure to find? Why or why not?
2. How does Santiago's journey symbolize your own journey so far?
3. Be ready to share your five favorite quotes from the novel and why they are your favorites.
4. How does the theme of the following poem overlap with *The Alchemist*?

### **The Way It Is**

**By William Stafford**

There's a thread you follow. It goes among  
things that change. But it doesn't change.  
People wonder about what you are pursuing.  
You have to explain about the thread.  
But it is hard for others to see.  
While you hold it you can't get lost.  
Tragedies happen; people get hurt  
or die; and you suffer and get old.  
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.  
You don't ever let go of the thread.