

English I Honors

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Teacher: Ms. Bradbury: mbradbury@salesian.com

Required Reading: *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho

After you've finished reading *The Alchemist*, complete the assignments below for only *The Alchemist*. You must complete a reading journal and a project on the book.

Both parts (the journal and the project) are due on the first day of school - Wednesday, August 12th.

All assignments are graded on thoroughness, clarity, creativity, and adherence to the guidelines. **All writing must be in your own words.**

#1: Reading Journal: Create a reading journal as you read. Your journal should be **typed** and include 15-20 entries. Please include a cover page with your name, the date, English I Honors, and the assignment title: **Summer Reading Journal**.

- To make your reading journal, create a three-column chart.
- As you read the book, write down important quotations from the novel in the first column, including the page number.
- Then, respond to each quotation with a personal reaction in the second column. For example, ask yourself, 'How does this quotation connect to my life experience?'
- In the third column, add analysis or commentary about its relevance to the text. For example, ask yourself, 'How does this quotation illustrate important themes and ideas in the book?'

Use the following format, and repeat until you have completed 15-20 entries.

Quotation (and page number):	Personal Response:	Analysis:
Quotation (and page number):	Personal Response:	Analysis:

#2: Project: Choose one of the following projects and complete it as assigned. You can either make a timeline, map **or** scrapbook of the significant events in the book.

1. Timeline: Create a visual timeline of the book's events. Include the significant events of the story. Include at least 15 events.

- Illustrate the events with drawings, photographs, or other images.
- Label each event. State what each main event is, and briefly state the significance of that event in regard to the overall story.
- Please write everything neatly, in pen or marker.

2. Map: Create a visual map of the book's world. Include the landmarks (rivers, streets, buildings, etc.) and the sites of significant events in the book. On your map, indicate the main character's journey from one place to another.

- Include drawings, photographs, or other images.
- Label each landmark and site by stating what it is (example: The River) and writing briefly what significant event took place there. (Example: Dana saves Rufus from drowning.)
- Please write everything neatly, in pen or marker.

English I Honors

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Teacher: Ms. Bradbury: mbradbury@salesian.com

3. Scrapbook

- Create a scrapbook for one of the main characters that reflect the many events that happen to him or her in the novel you read. You can include photos that show important events in the character's life, letters, postcards, telegrams, a family tree, newspaper clippings, memorable items, or anything else you can think of that you might find in a scrapbook.
- Write captions for the items in the scrapbook describing what the items are or what's going on. In your caption, also indicate the items' significance to the character. Please write captions in pen, marker, or type.
- Design a creative cover for the scrapbook.

In addition to *The Alchemist*, you **must read one of the books below.**

- *A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines
- *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding
- *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien

It is important to get used to reading nightly, as you will be expected to do this throughout the school year.

You do not need to complete a project or reading journal on the additional story you choose to read.