

Summer Reading 2026 for **Advanced English 9**

Students taking Advanced English 9 in the fall must read two books before the start of ninth grade. **Students should handwrite these assignments using a pen or pencil. They should not be typed.**

Book #1: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Students must complete the study guide for the novel in preparation for a formal writing assignment and reading assessment. If you would like to check out a copy of the novel and pick up a copy of the study guide, please stop by the AHA lobby during summer hours. *There will be limited copies available.* The study guide below.

Note about the text: *The Alchemist* highlights the importance of personal transformation, understanding, and acceptance. By weaving together elements of magic and spiritual insight, this narrative has reached a global audience of millions, impacting many lives through its powerful message.

Book #2: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Students must complete two documents for this novella: a vocabulary worksheet and a literary terms worksheet (both documents can be picked up in the AHA lobby during summer hours). Students will complete a vocabulary quiz and fishbowl discussion for this novel.

Note about the text: *Animal Farm* is a short novel that is subtitled “a fairy story”. This fairy story is a fable that uses animals to tell a deceptively simple story of oppression, revolution, and power. Note: The conflict in the novella contains scenes of violence (including gun violence) and death.

<i>The Alchemist</i> Guided Reading Questions Summer Reading	Name: _____
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Please complete this guide by the first day of school.

(pg. 1-10)

1. Who is Santiago? How is he introduced at the beginning of the story?
2. What is strange or unusual about Santiago's dream?
4. Describe and use details about the setting of the novel?
5. What do Santiago's parents plan for him, and how does he change that plan?
6. What does Santiago plan to do in Tarifa?

(pg. 11-33)

7. Santiago stops in Tarifa to consult with an old woman about his recurring dream. What price does she charge him?
10. How does the old man convince Santiago of his power?
11. Explain the concept of a Personal Legend. Why does the old man believe that few people ever really attain their Personal Legends?
12. Why does the old man tell Santiago to follow "omens?" Do you believe that omens exist? Why or why not? (you may need to look up the meaning of this word to answer the question).
13. What does the old man take from the breastplate as a gift to Santiago?
14. The old man tells Santiago a story that concludes with the secret of happiness. According to the old man, what is the secret of happiness?

(pg. 33-47)

15. When Santiago decides to leave his home country of Spain in order to follow his personal legend, where does he go?
16. How are the two locations different in regards to food/drink, religion, customs, etc.?
17. What happens when Santiago follows his new friend into the marketplace?
18. Although Santiago does not speak Arabic, he has a conversation with the candy seller. Why is this important?
19. What comfort do the black and white stones provide to Santiago?
20. Describe the first interaction between Santiago and the crystal merchant.

(pg. 51-79)

21. What lessons does Santiago teach the crystal merchant (page 64)?
22. Who is the Englishman and what do we learn about him? What motivates the Englishman to befriend Santiago?
24. According to the Englishman, what is the Soul of the World?
25. What is an alchemist? (again, you may need to look this up)

(pg. 79-104)

27. Why was the alchemist watching people as they entered the oasis? Describe the Oasis.
30. What is the language of the world and how does Santiago learn it?
31. What agreement do Fatima and Santiago come to?

(pg. 104-123) Please note, this section of the reading discusses war.

32. Santiago sees two hawks as an omen. What do they signify?

33. What happens when Santiago visits the tribal chieftains to tell them about his vision?

36. Describe Santiago's first interaction with the alchemist.

37. Describe the battle at the oasis.

38. What was Santiago's reward for saving the oasis?

(pg. 123-143)

40. What advice does the alchemist give about listening to one's heart? Do you agree or disagree?

44. What happens when the alchemist and the boy are both taken into the military camp?

45. Why would the alchemist set up such a "test" for Santiago?

46. Who is at risk of death here? Why?

(pg. 143-163)

47. As Santiago is attempting to turn himself into the wind, who does he hold conversations with?

49. Two people were smiling after Santiago turned himself into the wind. Who were they and why was each smiling?

50. What did the alchemist do at the Coptic monastery?

51. How did the alchemist distribute the gold? Why did he think Santiago might need the gold later?

53. What advice did the boy's heart give him as he approached the Pyramids? What did he do when he saw the Pyramids?

54. Who approaches Santiago as he digs in the sand, and what did they do?

55. What story does one attacker tell Santiago?

56. After the attackers leave, Santiago gets up from the sand and begins to laugh. Why?

Epilogue (pg. 165-167)

57. What are Santiago's plans for the future?

Final question:

58. *The Alchemist* presents us with many important lessons learned by Santiago throughout his journey. Using three sentences, what ONE lesson do you think was the most important for him to learn? Why?

Animal Farm
Vocabulary

Name:

Period:

In the chart below, write an original sentence using the vocabulary word in the correct part of speech. All AE9 students will take a vocabulary quiz on the following words during the first week of school.

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Complete Sentence
Enmity (noun)	a state of deep-seated ill-will	
Vivacious (adjective)	vigorous and animated	
Resolution (noun)	a formal expression by a meeting, agreed to by a vote	
Acute (adjective)	demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions	
Maxim (noun)	a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits	
Unalterable (adjective)	not capable of being changed	
Toil (verb)	To work hard	
Shirk (verb)	To avoid one's assigned duties	

Impromptu (adjective)	with little or no preparation or forethought	
Indignation (noun)	a feeling of righteous anger	
Machination (noun)	a crafty and involved plot to achieve your ends	

Animal Farm
Literary Terms Worksheet

Name: _____

Point of View

From which point of view is the story told? _____

Evidence: _____

Setting

Where does the story take place? _____

When? In what time period? _____

Evidence: _____

How much time passes? _____

Conflict

Examples of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. society, person vs. self, and person vs. technology

Type of Conflict Identify the conflict and include who or what is involved	Direct Evidence Include direct quote, page number, and explanation of how it relates to the conflict
1.	
2.	
3.	

Characterization

Characterization is the tool an author uses to create well-developed characters. Choose two characters from *Animal Farm* and complete the following chart.

	Direct Characterization Information told to the reader by the author (the author tells us)	Indirect Characterization Information about a character the reader has to infer (the author shows us.)
Character #1: _____	Characterization: Evidence + page number:	Characterization: Evidence + page number:
Character #2: _____	Characterization: Evidence + page number:	Characterization: Evidence + page number:

Theme

What is a one-word theme of this short story? _____

What is the author saying in this short story about your theme?

Choose one piece of direct evidence with a page number to support your theme statement.
