

Summer Reading Assignment

Rising 10th graders - College Prep, Accelerated, Honors

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Welcome to Sophomore Year!

This summer, all rising 10th grade students—**College Prep, Accelerated, and Honors levels**—are required to read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. This inspiring novel follows Santiago, a young shepherd, as he journeys in search of a hidden treasure and, more importantly, his life's purpose, or "Personal Legend." Along the way, he encounters mentors, omens, and challenges that help shape his destiny.

Assignment Requirements:

1. Complete reading *The Alchemist* before the first day of school.
2. Bring your copy of the book (digital or hard copy) to class for discussion and assessment activities.
3. As you read, take notes, highlight important passages, and annotate key ideas.

You should focus on the following:

A. Plot and Events - Understand Santiago's journey and the major events that lead him toward his goal. Be ready to explain what he learns at each stage of his quest.

B. Character Development - Pay attention to how Santiago grows as a person. How do characters like the King of Salem, the Englishman, the Crystal Merchant, the Alchemist, and Fatima impact him?

C. Themes to Track

- Identify and reflect on these major themes:
- Following your dreams ("Personal Legend")
- Listening to your heart
- Overcoming fear
- The power of perseverance
- Destiny and free will
- The journey vs. the destination

How You Will Be Assessed:

- **Multiple Choice Questions**
Covering major plot points, characters, and themes.
- **Short Response Questions**
You'll be asked to write thoughtful answers using evidence from the text.
- **Essay Response**
You will write an in-class literary analysis that may ask you to reflect on:
 - Santiago's growth and lessons learned
 - The role of omens, fate, and spiritual signs
 - How the theme of pursuing your dream applies to real life
 - The impact of fear and self-doubt on achieving goals

IMPORTANT REMINDER: This assignment will count as your **first major grade of the year**. Be sure to read actively—annotate, take notes, and be prepared to discuss and write about the novel. Start your 10th grade year strong by being ready, responsible, and engaged!