

### ***The Alchemist* Reading and Assignment Schedule**

Please pay attention to what chapters you are responsible for reading each night. Though the schedule is subject to change, you should expect a reading quiz following each night's assignment.

#### **Reading Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PAGES</b>	<b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b>
Monday, October 23	Pages 5-23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is the significance of Santiago becoming a shepherd rather than a priest, as his parents had hoped?</li><li>2. "Dreams are the language of God," says the gypsy woman. What might she mean by this?</li><li>3. Melchizedek has sensed that Santiago is on the verge of trying to realize his Personal Legend. According to the old king, what is a Personal Legend?</li></ol>
Tuesday, October 24	Pages 23-50	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As he stands gazing across the Strait toward Africa, Santiago feels a strong wind called the "levanter" on his face. What does he realize that the wind symbolizes, and how does this realization help him decide to cross the Threshold and start on his journey? How do we know that Melchizedek's advice helps him make this decision?</li><li>2. How has the character of the Crystal Merchant been tricked over time into believing "the world's greatest lie," as Melchizedek called it?</li><li>3. The Crystal Merchant tells Santiago that even if the boy worked for a year in the shop his earnings wouldn't pay for his passage across the Sahara Desert to Egypt. What does Santiago say in response to this news? How does his response confirm the omen that was revealed when he asked the stones if he would find his treasure?</li></ol>
Wednesday, October 25	Pages 53-67	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Author Paulo Coelho says that the biggest obstacle most people face in pursuing their Personal Legend is, "the fear of realizing the dream for which we fought all our lives." (viii). How does this explain the Crystal Merchant's failure to travel to Mecca?</li><li>2. Specific words themselves also carry deep meaning. The crystal merchant introduces Santiago to the Arabic word <i>maktub</i>; this word loosely translates into "it is written," and is mentioned at important moments in the story. The word carries the connotation that in every situation or action there is a hand of fate involved. Why do you think the Crystal Merchant speaks this word when he and Santiago part ways on page 61?</li></ol>
Thursday, October 26	Pages 67-82	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Englishman, whom Santiago meets when he joins the caravan to the Egyptian pyramids, is—like Santiago—joining the caravan as part of a quest. What is the Englishman searching for?</li><li>2. Based on the conversation between Santiago and the Englishman on page 82, does it appear that the two have anything to learn from each other?</li></ol>

Friday, October 27	Pages 82-107	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to the Englishman, how were the alchemists he read about changed by the years they spent “in their laboratories, observing the fire that purified the metals”?</li> <li>2. Recall that each encounter Santiago has presents him with the opportunity for personal growth provided that he can understand what it is he should learn from the interaction. What lesson is there for Santiago to learn from the fact that Fatima tells him not to stay at the oasis but to go to the pyramids after he has pledged his love for her?</li> </ol>
Monday, October 30	Pages 107-132	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Alchemist persuades Santiago to sell his camel and buy a horse. The next night he takes Santiago into the desert and gives him his second test. What is the task The Alchemist gives Santiago, and what skill is being tested in this task?</li> <li>2. The Alchemist says that for the boy to find his treasure he must listen to his heart. Why does The Alchemist feel that the heart is more important, or more trustworthy, than the mind? How and why is the heart able to understand things the mind can't grasp?</li> </ol>
Tuesday, October 31	Pages 132-147	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to The Alchemist, every search starts with Beginner's Luck. How does every Search end? How is this belief consistent with the Phases and Steps of the Hero's Journey model? What does this foreshadow for Santiago?</li> <li>2. Though The Alchemist obviously understands the Language of the World and has special tools and powers at his disposal, he does not actually offer to help Santiago out of a challenging and dangerous situation. On the contrary, he places Santiago in the center of an apparently dangerous situation when he tells the chief and his men that Santiago is an alchemist who can turn himself into the wind. If he is supposed to be a mentor to Santiago, why does he do this?</li> </ol>
Wednesday, November 1	Pages 147-169	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although Santiago asks the desert, the wind, and the sun to help him, none know how to turn a man into the wind. Where does the boy find the answer? What is the larger significance of this answer?</li> <li>2. How do you interpret the novel's ending? Why is it significant that Santiago's treasure is buried not at the Pyramids but back in Spain at the abandoned church where his journey began?</li> <li>3. What is the meaning of the fact that Santiago learns this from a man who also had a dream but refused to follow it?</li> </ol>
Thursday, November 2		Writing Personal Narratives
Friday, November 3		Personal Narrative Due
Monday, November 6		Final Essay Work
Tuesday, November 7		Final Essay Work
Wednesday, November 8		Final Essay Work
Thursday, November 9		Final Essay Work

Friday, November 10		No School: Veterans’ Day
Monday, November 13		Final Essay Work
Tuesday, November 14		Peer Review Essays
Wednesday, November15		Final Essay Due
Thursday, November 16	Final Exams	
Friday, November 17	Final Exams	

### Annotation Guide

You will not have assigned study guide questions for this book. Instead, you will **color code your annotations** according to the following categories. Annotating does not just mean highlighting; you must highlight AND make a note on what you highlight. If you are using a paperback book, make note of your annotations on a sheet of paper or directly in your book.

- **PINK: React**
  - Note emotions you feel as you read
  - Describe a new perspective you may now have
  - Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or moment
- **BLUE: Question**
  - Literal (ex. define words or slang)
  - Interpretive (ex. question why an author may have used particular words or phrases; question the motivations of the characters)
  - Universal (ex: ask a larger question about human nature)
- **YELLOW: Predict**
  - Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text
  - Note what you think will happen next in the text
- **GREEN: Connect**
  - Text-to-Self (i.e. make meaningful connections to your own life experiences)
  - Text-to-Text (e.g. make connections to other parts of the book; make connections to other texts you have read)
  - Text-to-Class (i.e. make connections to material discussed in other classes)
  - Text-to-World (i.e. connect to current events)
  - **Identify examples of direct and indirect characterization**
  - Identify and analyze examples of figurative language
  - Identify text that relates to the following essential questions:
    - What is your personal legend?
    - How do we find meaning in life?
    - How do we navigate between duty and passion?
    - How do we experience loving and losing?
    - What does it mean to lead a good life?

### Major Assessments

#### Personal Narrative and Essay

## Double-Entry Journal

The purpose of keeping a dialectical journal is to allow you to enter into conversation with the author and text. Over the past few weeks, you have been required to annotate your text. The dialectical journal is similar to this process but will require you to think more about the text. Since you will be reading *The Alchemist* closely, you will need to continue annotating your text and begin recording your thoughts. The instructions below will help guide you through your entries.

The Alchemist		
Passage	Page or Chapter	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When looking for a passage to analyze, look for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Examples of figurative language</li><li>Examples of “Hero’s Journey”</li><li>Evidence that supports or refutes an essential question</li><li>Answers to the study questions</li></ul></li><li>All passages should be a direct quote from the text.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your response should:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Explain why an author may have used particular words or phrases; question the motivations of the characters</li><li>Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text and how it relates to an essential question, <b>especially as it relates to a personal legend or hero’s journey.</b></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Sample:</b> "That was what made traveling appeal to him - he always made new friends, and he didn’t need to spend all of his time with them. When someone sees the same people every day, as happened with him at the seminary, they wind up becoming a part of that person’s life. And then they want the person to change. If someone isn’t what others want them to be, the others become angry. Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives but none about his or her own."	Page 18	Santiago is realizing the effect others have on him. He appreciates the freedom to interact with people or choose not to when he travels. People seem to spend a lot of time thinking about how everyone else should act, but very little time reflecting on themselves. You can’t create a personal legend without doing this. Santiago is learning something significant.