

South High School  
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2018  
**Honors/Pre-AP Sophomore Literature and Composition**  
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Do dreams come true? Do dreams help to predict things to come? Can dreams change our lives? These are questions millions of people have been wrestling with since the earliest times of human history. As Santiago, our Spanish shepherd and central character of the book, embarks on his trip of adventure and discovery, place yourself in his shoes and imagine how you would react to a similar dream. What would you do? Would you have the courage to follow your dream as Santiago did? Can you answer the simple question: Do dreams come true?

**The Assignment**

First you will need to purchase or borrow a copy of the required text (The Alchemist), **annotate** for understanding and **complete three graphic organizers** (see instructions). There will be a PDF of the text available on South's website if you are unable to purchase or borrow a copy.

This will be due the first day of school: **August 20, 2018**.

As you join Santiago on his adventure you will share the trails of Santiago on his journey. The Alchemist is not your usual novel of a superhero or supposed modern role-model, but that of a humble and simple young man. In fact, Santiago's journey follows a very specific model called a hero's journey or monomyth.

Mythographer Joseph Campbell wrote what many consider to be the most influential book of the 20th century, The Hero With a Thousand Faces. In this work he establishes a list of stages which many heroes in narrative works experience. He breaks up the stages into three subcategories known as the monomyth, including separation, initiation, and return.

With this model in mind, you will analyze the journey of the protagonist. We have already divided your reading assignment into three sections which correspond with each stage of the journey. As you read you will respond to Santiago's adventure by completing each of the graphic organizers found on the next few pages. It is imperative that you complete the chart **AS YOU READ**, because it will be more difficult to find the quotations after you have already finished the novel. Please bring the completed assignments to school on the first day.

**Part I - Annotating the Novel:** If you buy the novel you can annotate in the margins; however, if you borrow it from the library, you might want to use sticky notes. Use the following symbols to note your understanding of the novel and jot down the questions and comments you have about the passages you identified. See "Reading: Annotating Text" (Attachment)

**?? - I'm confused**  
**! - Main idea**  
**D - Discuss**  
**S - Significant/important**

## Glossary of Terms

**Alchemy** - The occult science which claims to be able to turn any common metal into gold.

**Bedouin** - Nomadic tribes that live in the African desert.

**Breastplate** - Large metal plate worn on the chest as part of a suit of armor. It is used for self defense, but can also be decorative.

**Caravan**- A group which travels through the desert. Travelers band together for mutual protection.

**Language of the Universe** - Omens, coincidences and dreams are the means by which the universe seeks to communicate. By remaining open to these omens, Santiago is able to learn more about the world and about himself.

**Levanter** - The name of the wind that blows off of Africa into Spain. So called because it comes from "the Levant." It is related to the conquest of Spain by the Moors. Santiago thinks that it brings the scent of exotic women and adventure.

**Maktub**- An Arabic word meaning "written." The shopkeeper uses it to refer to those things preordained, or written, by Allah.

**Moor**- Spanish and European name for the Arabs that ruled the Iberian peninsula for almost 500 years.

**Personal Legend** - A Personal Legend is a true desire, which comes from the Soul of the Universe. This is different from other selfish desires in that the universe conspires to help you realize your personal legend. The story of *The Alchemist* is the story of Santiago realizing his Personal Legend.

**Sacristy** - Room where the vestments of the church are kept.

**Sahara** - The desert that runs across the width of the African continent. Known for its size and its harshness.

**Scarab** - A type of desert beetle which was sacred to the Ancient Egyptians. They believed that it symbolized the Sun and spiritual rebirth.

**Soul of the World** - A term which comes up repeatedly in the text, the Soul of the World is sometimes equated with God. It is a spiritual force that binds all of us together and governs all things and that speaks with us in the language of signs or omens.

**The Elixir of Life** - The Elixir of Life is the liquid portion of the Master Work, the goal of all alchemists. The Elixir of Life heals diseases and grants long life when ingested. The Alchemist carries some in a flask through the desert.

**The Master Work** - The Master Work is a term which refers, in alchemy, to the Elixir of Life and the Philosopher's Stone as a whole. The Master Work is the goal of all alchemists; the Alchemist has achieved it, but the Englishman is still seeking it.

**The Philosophers Stone** - The Philosophers Stone is the solid portion of the Master Work. The Philosopher's Stone has the ability to turn any metal into gold, an ability which the Alchemist uses to generate gold at the Coptic monastery in Egypt before taking his leave of Santiago.

**Uimim and Thummim** - Two stones given to Santiago by Melchizedek. Melchizedek instructs Santiago to use them when he cannot read the omens of the world. These stones are drawn from a bag, with one signifying no and the other one signifying yes.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II - Summer Reading Log Graphic Organizer & Instructions

**Directions:** Complete **all three** of your graphic organizers according to the prompts in this template.  
\*If you need more space to write, you may recreate this graphic on your own or use white-lined paper, or print additional copies.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUMMARY AND PREDICTION</u></b></p> <p>Summarize the assigned portion of the text and how it presents the specific stage of Santiago's journey</p> <p>1. Write a summary of the assigned reading. Your summary must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe three key events in the reading using transition words (Example: Firstly, next, finally)</li><li>• Be at least four sentences.</li></ul> <p>2. Make a prediction about what will happen next. Your prediction must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be linked to the events described in your summary</li><li>• Be at least four sentences.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PERSONAL RESPONSE</u></b></p> <p>Comment, analyze and /or connect your own personal experiences to the assigned text.</p> <p>1. Honestly describe and explain your thoughts and feelings as you read the assigned reading. <i>What were you thinking?</i></p> <p>If you are having trouble starting, you can choose from the list of response starters below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not feel restricted to this list!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When I read the chapter/s I felt....</li><li>• I can relate to...</li><li>• I am confused about...</li><li>• I want to know why...</li><li>• This reminds me of...</li><li>• I want to ask the author/character...</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>QUOTATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Select <b>three</b> direct passages, phrases or sentence(s) from the assigned pages you find interesting or important. Keep in mind the hero's journey and what Santiago learns about himself and the world. Cite specific page numbers.</p> <p>Your selections might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key phrases or sentences,</li><li>• Confusing phrases or sentences,</li><li>• Interesting words,</li><li>• Important dialogue, OR</li><li>• Facts from the text</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ANALYSIS /QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <p>Explain why you selected the quotations, passages and/or what questions you would like to ask about them.</p> <p>Your explanations should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thoughtfully and thoroughly explain why you select each of the quotations</li><li>• Interpret the meaning of the quotes and explain its significance to the meaning of the story</li><li>• Be at least 4 sentences</li></ul> <p>If you choose to write questions regarding the quotes, your questions should be analytical questions (why, how)</p>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part I - Beginning to pg. 42 "I'm an adventurer, looking for treasure," he said to himself**

**THE DEPARTURE:** During this stage of the hero's journey, the hero will receive a call to leave his or her normal life and face adventure. He or she will meet a mentor who will present the hero with one or more talismans or artifacts that will aid the hero on the quest. And lastly, he or she will leave the familiar behind, enter the unknown and unwillingly cross the point of no return.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUMMARY AND PREDICTION</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PERSONAL RESPONSE</u></b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>QUOTATIONS</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ANALYSIS /QUESTIONS</u></b></p>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II - Pg. 42 "He was shaken into wakefulness" to pg. 123 "the hope for his return"**

**THE INITIATION:** During this stage of the hero's journey, the hero will travel the road of trials. He or she will endure a series of tests, tasks, or ordeals that the person must undergo to begin the transformation. During the hero's trials and tribulations he or she will find true love or companionship. At this point in the journey he/she may even reach the final goal, and gain the final reward.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUMMARY AND PREDICTION</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PERSONAL RESPONSE</u></b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>QUOTATIONS</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ANALYSIS /QUESTIONS</u></b></p>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III - Pg. 123 "Don't think about what you left behind" to the conclusion**

**THE RETURN:** During this final stage of the hero's journey, the hero is holding the reward, and does not want to return to his or her old life. The journey has changed the hero. He or she must learn to integrate this new knowledge with his or her old life. The hero accepts his or her new place in the world and the responsibility that comes with it. Often this is responsibility the hero initially feared. With the journey complete and the hero integrated back into the world, he or she is now free to live his or her life as he or she sees fit.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUMMARY AND PREDICTION</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PERSONAL RESPONSE</u></b></p>
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