

10th Grade WORLD LITERATURE

Summer Reading Assignment

HONORS

This year our 10th Grade World Literature Classes will begin with a novel study of the fable ***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho as a part of our beginning Unit “The Price of Happiness.” In order for us to conduct in-class group discussions about the major themes of our unit that this novel covers, I am asking students to obtain a copy of the book over the summer, read the book, and complete the following assignment. The novel is available in a variety of formats including paperback, hardcover, eBook, and available at used bookstores and local libraries. Mrs. Dent has copies in her room that may be checked out over the summer and returned the first week of school (The price of a lost book is \$15.00). Students will need to bring their completed assignment and copy of the book to class every day for the first two weeks of school.

As always, I encourage parents to read book selections along with their students and maintain an open dialogue in order to discuss themes and issues raised.

Students will be given a formative and summative assessment over ***The Alchemist***. These will be their first grades of the year.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho: *The Alchemist* is a magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omen’s strewn along life’s path, and above all, following our dreams.

A fable is a short tale, not based on factual events or people, designed to teach a moral lesson that may contain supernatural or extraordinary people or events. This book is purely fiction and not based on real people or events.

Lexile Level: 910

In addition to reading the novel, you must complete the following written assignment (50points):

CHARACTERS:	Evidence from text:	Page #
Who are the protagonist(s)?		
Who are the antagonist(s)?		
Which characters are dynamic?		
Which characters are static?		
How do actions of certain characters affect events of the plot/outcome of the story?		
How does the dialogue of certain characters influence our opinion of them?		
What important physical and non-physical qualities to key characters possess?		
Do any characters represent social stereotypes?		
PLOT:		
What happens in the exposition?		
What happens in the rising action?		
What happens in the climax?		
What happens in the falling action?		
What happens in the resolution?		

POINT OF VIEW:		
From what POV is the story told?		
How does the POV impact the reader's understanding/perception of the story?		
SETTING:		
What is the setting and how does it contribute to the atmosphere/mood of the story?		
CONFLICT:		
Internal conflict (Man vs. Self)		
External conflict		
THEMES/SYMBOLS:		
What are the evident/dominant themes or ideas presented by the author in the book?		
What symbols are evident and what might they mean/symbolize?		
IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS/PASSAGES:		
Do any passages stand out as particularly important? Why?		

TONE:		
Does the author of the book have any obvious feelings on any issues?		
What is his tone of voice when writing?		
UNKNOWN VOCABULARY:		

Creative Project: *The Alchemist*

Purpose: The purpose of the assignment is to express your understanding of the novel through some creative expression. This assignment will help you connect to the novel on a deeper level.

Assignment: You will complete **ONE** of the project ideas on the reverse side. The idea is to be creative and express yourself in a way that is interesting for you. You will also prepare a short reflection/explanation of your project to connect your understanding to the details of the novel (see below).

Reflection/Explanation Requirements:

- ✓ Must be **typed**.
- ✓ Must be at least **two full pages in length**. (No longer than four pages please!)
- ✓ Must **explain everything** about your creative project, especially how it relates to key ideas, themes, or important aspects of the book.
- ✓ Your project must **show some deeper understanding** of the novel; the explanation must show this understanding and knowledge.
- ✓ You must include at least **six specific quotations** from the story to **connect to your project** as well as an explanation of the connection. Please be sure to **introduce and cite in MLA format**.

- ✓ Please be sure to answer, carefully and thoroughly, the following question: *How did this project help you to better understand the story?*
- ✓ **Standard writing expectations:** Double-spaced, appropriate font/size, heading expectations (see video), proofread, etc.

Due Date: First Day of School

Point Value: 30 points for project

20 points for reflection/explanation

Options and ideas:

- Create a map that shows the setting of the novel and indicates the characters' travels on the map.
- Create an illustrated children's book based on the novel.
- Create an illustrated timeline of key events in the story.
- Compose a song or poem that addresses some event in the story or that summarizes the whole story.
- Imagine that you are the casting director for the film creation of the novel. Decide which actors you would invite to play the main characters and write them letters where you invite them to take a part and tell them why you think they are well suited for the roles. Be convincing and site specific reasons for your choice. (Must write at least five letters.)
- Create a poster-sized mural that depicts a scene or scenes from the novel.

- Rewrite the ending of the story, add on a chapter, or write a part of the story from another character's point of view. Make sure it makes sense in relation to what actually happened.
- Create a poster advertising the book including background information on the author, other books they have written, and a review of the book.
- Write Santiago's "How-To Find Your Treasure" Handbook, or "Personal Legends for Dummies"
- Make a one to two minute "video" of music, images and concepts that connect to the book—please burn to a CD or DVD to turn in.
- Do some research on related items in the novel such as Biblical references, the geographical settings, Jung's theories of dream analysis or archetypes, the history of alchemy, or other religious traditions or writers and what they say about the concept of the "Soul of the World" and present this information on a poster. Please do not just use wikipedia!
- Anything else? Contact Mrs. Dent at adent@cameronisd.net! ☺

Have fun! Be creative! Enjoy! Complete with enthusiasm and purpose!

Assignment is due 1st the day of class, Monday, August 22nd, 2016. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a grade reduction and possible removal from course.