

Steamboat Springs High School

Summer Reading Assignment

FLITE English 2009-2010 School Year

Greetings incoming freshmen! Your first year at the high school will be rewarding and busy and this summer reading will give you a head start into your career as a scholar at Steamboat Springs High School. The text you are required to read over the summer is:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Be prepared for an essay, project(s) and/or test on the novel. The additional assignment is below and follows onto the reverse side of this piece of paper.

You need to obtain your own copy of this book. There are several ways of doing so. You may order it from an online merchant such as amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com or borders.com. You may also purchase it from a local bookseller like Off the Beaten Path or Epilogue Book Company. Your FLITE English teachers will speak with the owners of these local stores so they may order copies of the book and have increased stock. Furthermore, you may check out the book from Bud Werner library or have it ordered from another library and sent to Bud Werner. See a librarian if you need assistance in doing this.

Additional Assignment- You will need a small journal or a notepad (pages that are roughly seven inches by nine inches are perfect). Using this, describe the following aspects of the novel below.

Regional, Cultural or Spiritual Allusions and Terms: Define these terms in your journal or on your notepad.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Narcissus (Prologue) | Esperanto (p.66) |
| Koran (p. 54) | Scarab (p.161) |
| Muslim | Simum (p.148) |
| Mecca | Coptic (153,154) |
| Allah (p. 71, 97) | Tiberius (p.158) |
| Levanter (p.27) | hookah (p. 114) |
| “Maktub” (p. 59) | |

The Alchemist’s Terms/Expressions: Write a four to ten sentence paragraph describing what each of these concepts are in your journal.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Soul of the World | Philosopher’s Stone ((p.66) |
| The Unspoken Language | Elixir of Life (p. 66) |
| The Language of the World | Master Work (p.81) |
| Personal Legend | Emerald Tablet (p. 126) |
| Principle of Favorability (p. 29) | |
| Urim and Thummin (p. 30) | |

Vocabulary: Record definitions of these words in your journal.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| scabbard (37) | treasonous (129) |
| conspire | elixir (133) |
| scimitar (112) | contemplate (134) |
| brandish (112) | fixedly (136) |
| dialect (106) | flourish (145) |
| prognostication (111) | sirocco (146) |
| monotony (124) | tether (151) |
| tracts (126) | recount (153) |
| agitated (128) | disciple (153) |
| centurion (158) | avidly (159) |
| scarab (161) | sacristy (163) |
| alchemy | infidel (34) |

Character: Dedicate a page or two in your notebook to describe Santiago's character. In order to do so, please explain his appearance, values, likes/dislikes, thoughts, actions, interactions with other characters, how other characters view him, his speech and so on.

Conflict: Dedicate another page or two of your journal to explaining what conflicts occur in the novel. Conflicts typically appear in the following forms: human versus human, human versus nature, human versus fate/god, human versus society, human versus technology, and human versus self.

Symbol: Using another page or two in your notebook, describe what possible symbols you see in the book. Remember, a symbol is a concrete object that represents an abstract idea. For example, a heart (concrete object) represents love (an abstract idea).

Theme: Commit another page or so in your journal to themes of the novel. Describe how you see themes play out through the course of the book. As a reminder, a theme is the message of the novel; it is what the author is trying to say about the world.

See you in August. Have a safe and happy summer and be ready to roll up your sleeves when we convene. – Your FLITE English teachers- Mrs. Lisa Ruff and Mr. Larry Gravelle

*Page numbers included above apply to the HarperCollins edition that looks like this:



