



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
& a student choice novel
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
 BROOK HILL HUMANITIES 9 HONORS ♦ 2025

PART ONE IS FOR BOTH *THE ALCHEMIST* AND YOUR CHOICE* NOVEL.

As you read, annotate directly in the book or on sticky notes. You must annotate for these things throughout the book. Please use a different color for each idea. Put a key in the front cover of the book:

- **Big Questions:** Write questions that come up as you read. These should connect to ideas and themes rather than basic story details (ex: “Why is the crystal merchant so afraid of change?” or “How does fear stop people from pursuing their dreams?”).
- **Biblical Connections:** Mark places where you notice parallels to Biblical ideas, people, or stories (ex: dreams, journeys, faith, testing, etc.).
- **Life Lessons:** Mark quotes that you personally think have truth beyond the story.
- **Favorite Quotes/Key Quotes:** Connect ideas to larger, universal themes that are still true in today’s world.
- **Character Analysis-** Is there a moment a character learns or changes? A moment that reveals what is truly at their core? Take note of these!

REQUIREMENTS

- At least 20 total *meaningful* annotations. (Notes show authentic thinking & analysis.)
- Must have at least 2 of each type listed above.
- Must be handwritten. No typed or printed sticky notes.
- This will be your first quiz grade.
- Choice novel should be grade level appropriate and NOT something previously read.

After reading *The Alchemist*, choose one of these tasks to complete for a test grade.

- **Journey Map:** Create a hand-drawn map of Santiago’s journey.
 - Include major locations
 - Decorate it with symbols representing major events.
 - Add at least five quotes or life lessons written around the map.
- **Alternate Ending:** Handwrite a new final chapter (1–2 pages) where Santiago makes a different choice at the end.
 - Stay true to the book’s style — still using dreamlike, simple, symbolic language.
 - Include a short author’s note explaining why you made the changes you did.
- **Character "Dream Chest":** Design and illustrate a box or chest filled with five objects that represent Santiago’s growth.
 - Draw the chest and its contents.
 - Label each object with a 2–3 sentence explanation of why it’s significant to his journey.
- **"Personal Legend" Illustrated Poem:** Write and hand-illustrate a poem (at least 12 lines) about Santiago’s pursuit of his Personal Legend — or about your own dream or goal.
 - Surround the poem with drawings or symbols related to your theme.
 - The artwork and words should work together.

REQUIREMENTS

- All work must be handwritten/hand-drawn.
- Grading is based on understanding of text, neatness, creativity, & thoroughness.