

Summer Reading Assignment

English II Pre-IB: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Choose **ONE** question to answer and explain completely. Your response must contain textual evidence that supports your point/reason for your answer as well as an explanation of each point/reason that you state. Follow the PEEL structure. [Point, Example, Explain and Link (to point stated)]. You are required to write a minimum of 1 page, double spaced typed (approximately 250 words). This assignment is **due on September 8, 2020**, but you may turn it in beforehand.

Choose from **ONE** of the following questions:

1. In the Prologue with the alchemist's version of the Narcissus story, what themes and relationships is Coelho telling us to watch for throughout Santiago's story? Do you think there may be an element of "narcissism" in the pursuit of one's Personal Legend? Explain.
2. Santiago is asked by the gypsy woman and an old man for payments for different things. Both represent a different price to pay to fulfill a dream; however, only one will yield a true result. Which payment represents false hope? Explain. Can you think of an example from your own life or someone else's when you/they had to give up something to meet a goal and found the price too high?
3. What is the connection that the alchemist makes between alchemy and evolution? Between evolution and love? Explain.

EXAMPLE Provided Below:

Sample Question:

Santiago's father tells him to become a shepherd if what he wishes is to travel the world. Do you think this conversation with his father was the start of his Personal Legend? Explain.

Sample answer:

Santiago's conversation with his father was the first step to his personal legend because his father did not wish for him to leave. "People from all over the world have passed through this village...They have blond hair, or dark skin, but they are the same people who live right here," stated Santiago's father. This advice was not enough to satisfy Santiago. Moreover, his father continued to try to persuade his son to stay home by telling his son that basically everyone who travelled to their town was amazed by its beauty and what it offered so why would he want to go

anywhere else. Still, Santiago refused to let his dream die. “I’d like to see their land and how they live.” As much as his father tried to convince Santiago to stay home, he could not. His destiny, Personal Legend, would not be deterred even by his father’s words. Finally, his father knew he would not change Santiago’s mind, so his final piece of advice was for Santiago to become a shepherd to begin his dream and destiny of travelling. If Santiago had not originally shared this information with his father, he would not have given him the idea to become a shepherd which ultimately began his Personal Legend.