



**DELONE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2018 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**  
**SOPHOMORE ACADEMIC/SOPHOMORE HONORS**  
**DUE DATE: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**Assignment:**

Step 1: Obtain a copy of *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

Step 2: Complete the accompanying assignments for each part of the novel.

*After reading Part 1, complete the following:*

- *Mandala*: Based on what is learned about Santiago in the opening of the novel, you will be creating a mandala (*attached sheets*) for his character. The mandala expresses symbols that would be of importance to his character. The center of the mandala should contain a symbol that represents a value, ideal, etc. that is most important or central to his character. You will then provide an explanation for your choices.
- *Philosophical Thoughts*: In these sections you will be focusing on quotes that seem to have greater wisdom or meaning beyond the characters and novel itself. For example in part one, the narrator states “Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about his or her own.” You will record (*attached sheets*) these philosophical thoughts in the form of direct quotes and explain their meaning and relationship to Santiago.

*After reading Part 2, complete the following:*

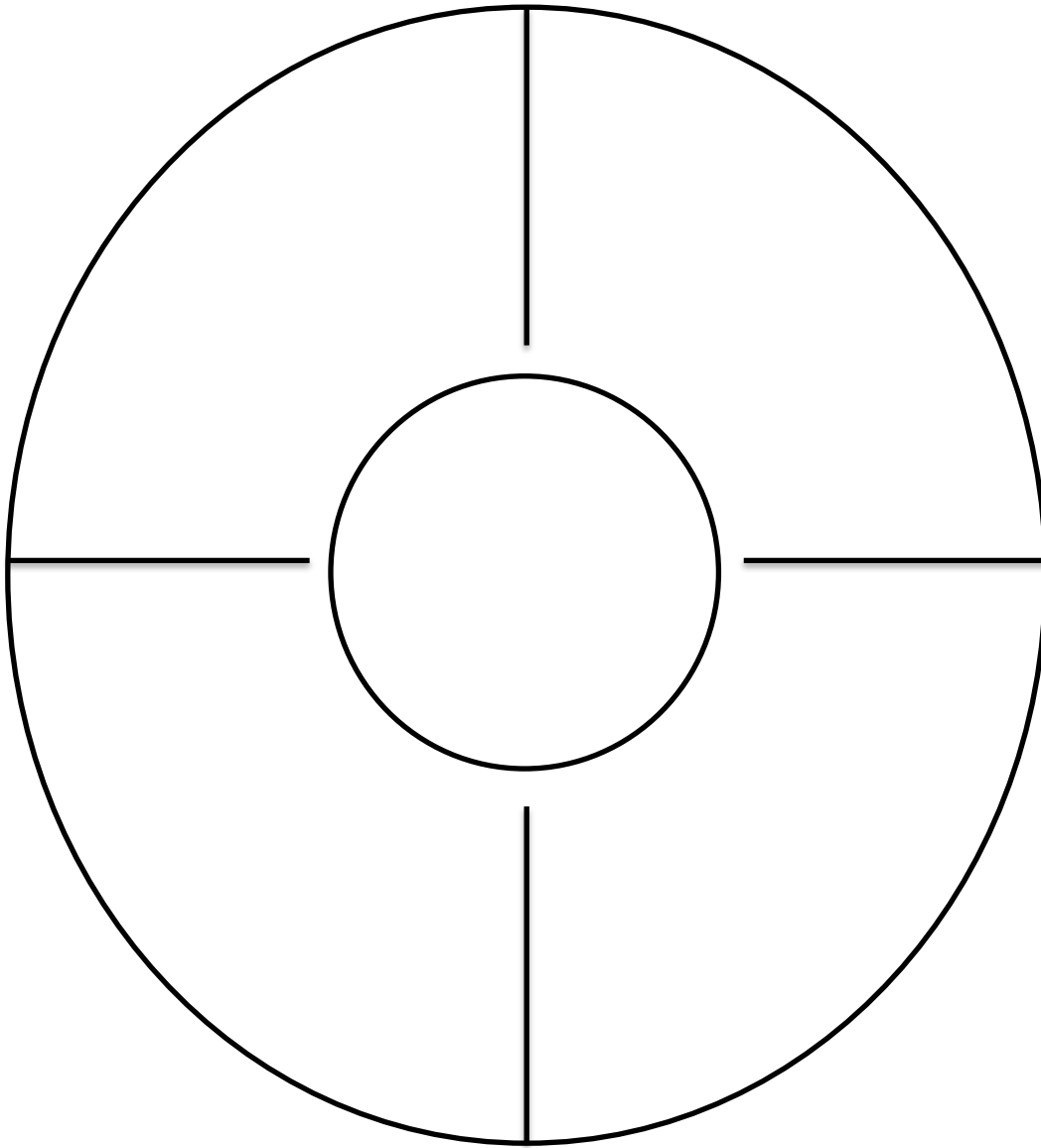
- *Important Encounters*: On his journey, Santiago encounters several individuals who provide insight and guidance to him along the way. You will indicate (*attached sheets*) what lessons Santiago learned from each of these characters and how each of them influenced his decisions. You must provide direct quotes in support of answers.
- *Interview Questions*: After reading the novel, answer the final questions that relate to an interview conducted with the author, Paulo Coelho. Be sure to include direct textual evidence in the form of quotes in your response.

\*\*\**Sophomore Honors: Please note the additional assignment that you are required to complete.*

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# MANDALA



Explanation: (6-8 sentences)

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## PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHTS

Page #	Philosophical Quote	Meaning	Relationship to Santiago

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## IMPORTANT ENCOUNTERS

Page #	Character	Lesson	Influence on Santiago's Decisions
	Gypsy Woman	Textual Evidence:	
	Melchizedek	Textual Evidence:	
	Crystal Merchant	Textual Evidence:	
	The Englishman	Textual Evidence:	

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Page #	Character	Lesson	Influence on Santiago's Decisions
	Camel Driver	Textual Evidence:	
	Fatima	Textual Evidence:	
	The Alchemist	Textual Evidence:	

## AFTER READING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

In an interview Paulo Coelho discussed the “Four Pillars of Alchemy”; four important guideposts for finding one’s Personal Legend, which he defines as “your blessing, the path God has chosen for you here on Earth.” As you answer each question, consider how each pillar is reflected in Santiago’s story. Each response should include direct textual evidence from the text, namely evidence that you have not used on previous parts of the summer assignment.

1. One must believe in “The Soul of the World.” The ancient Latin term for this concept is “anima mundi.” This idea suggests that everything in the world is interconnected; that is, what one does affects everything else, from the smallest grain of sand to the largest whale.
2. One must listen to the voice of the heart. Coelho suggests that sometimes we must follow our feelings and intuitions, even if we do not fully understand them. Through feelings one gains wisdom.
3. One must be faithful to one’s dreams, for they both test and reward us. In other words, the path to achieving one’s personal legend may not be an easy one, but we must endure the tests in order to gain the rewards.
4. One must “surrender oneself to the universe.” Coelho suggests that we must allow ourselves to be open to recognizing and learning from opportunities and signs which come our way.

## SOPHOMORE HONORS ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT

In addition to reading the novel, you will be required to explore the website/blog 52 peaks (<http://52peaks.com/>). The website was launched in 2016 when two women decided they would climb 52 peaks (1 per week) in a single year. Their mission crossed the globe and has since concluded. They also sponsored a book club as part of their climbs beginning with *The Alchemist*.

In an essay, consider the following questions:

- Why did these women decide to begin this journey? Who are they? What are their backgrounds?
- What challenges did they face?
- What insights did they gain along their individual and collective journeys?
- Why did they choose *The Alchemist* as their first book on the trek?
- What interests you about their story?

Requirements:

- 2 pages, typed, double spaced, MLA Heading
- direct textual evidence (peak blogs & peak logs will be important reading)
- address the main questions in your response
- avoid first person pronouns