

West Seneca West Senior High School
3330 Seneca St.
West Seneca, NY 14224

June 2023

Dear Grade 9 Honors English Students and Parents/Guardians,

Summer reading is part of West Senior's English curriculum. Reading books during the summer helps develop lifelong reading habits. Also, it assists students in preparing for the New York State Regents Exam and the Advanced Placement Exam.

Listed below is the summer reading title for Grade 9 Honors. I highly recommend purchasing the book so students can annotate the text as they read. Alternatively, students may be able to get a physical copy through the public library, depending on the availability of public services. Students may also access an electronic version via Overdrive through the West Seneca Public Library at https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default. There are also free audiobooks and full-text pdfs available online. I encourage students to reach out to me (jschubring@wscschools.org) if they need assistance utilizing these resources or getting a copy of the book. Students will need to use their books to complete the *Enriched Program Summer Reading Journal*, which is on the next page.

Students should read the text and complete the *Enriched Program Summer Reading Journal* by the end of August. Students will turn in their Enriched Program Reading Journals by **September 8th**. This assignment and additional classwork on the book will be assessed in the first marking period.

Grade 9 Honors with Mrs. Schubring

Read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and keep a reading journal according to the directions on the *Enriched Program Summer Reading Journal* criteria. *Please be sure to read the correct book. There are many books with the title *The Alchemist*. You must read *The Alchemist* written by [Paulo Coelho](#).

If students have any questions about the Grade 9 Honors summer reading requirement or journal, they are encouraged to email me this summer for clarification at jschubring@wscschools.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Schubring

Enriched Program Summer Reading Journal Criteria

Complete the following for *The Alchemist* by **Paulo Coelho** (Grade 9 Honors).

As you read, complete journal entries according to the directions below. The number of entries should reflect complexity and length of the text you are analyzing for class; you should complete **at least 15 entries reflecting the entirety of the novel, including the prologue and epilogue; however, more entries are encouraged to cover the full scope of the novel.**

Do not consult online resources or other literature guides for assistance.

Directions:

- In the textual evidence column, you will write exact quotes using ellipses (. . .) for long passages and enclosing text in quotation marks. Document page number (or chapter if reading an ebook), speaker, and any other information necessary for recall.
- In the commentary column, you will record your thoughts and reactions using the reading strategies listed below. Each entry must be labeled according to the strategy used, i.e. (DS) for determining the significance or (LT) for identification of a literary term and its use.
- Your textual evidence should be collected evenly throughout the book, reflecting consistent journal-keeping effort. The accompanying commentary must demonstrate use of all reading strategies and insight, a focus on details, and the beginning of analysis.

Examples of Journal Entries:

| TEXTUAL EVIDENCE | COMMENTARY |
|--|--|
| 1. "I know I fib a good deal. After all, a woman's charm is fifty percent illusion, but when a thing is important I tell the truth, and this is the truth: I haven't cheated my sister or you or anyone else as long as I have lived." (sc. 2, p.41) <i>Blanche to Stanley when he questions her about losing Belle Reve</i> | Blanche is secretive about her age and concerned about how she looks, as if she is trying to be someone she is not. She also says she lies a lot, but not in important circumstances. Can we believe anything Blanche says? (DS) (Q) |
| 2. "I'm not living with you. We occupy the same cage." (Act. 1, scene 1). <i>Maggie to Brick when discussing their marriage.</i> | This metaphor suggests that Maggie and Brick feel trapped in their relationship. This suggests they don't really love each other, which would definitely cause conflict. (LT) (DS) |

Reading Strategies:

(Q) QUESTION: Address any confusion by posing a question about a quote, passage, character, etc. – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

(CL) CLARIFY: Answer questions you raised earlier to aid your understanding of the plot, a character's motivation, etc. Confirm that earlier predictions you made were true or comment on how the story took a different course than anticipated.

(DS) DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE: Explain why you think the line, passage, or description is important. How is it connected to other events? What does it reveal about theme?

(LT) LITERARY TERM: Consider techniques, such as symbols and allusions, the author uses to reveal theme. How does the author use diction and dialogue to reveal character? What is the author's tone?