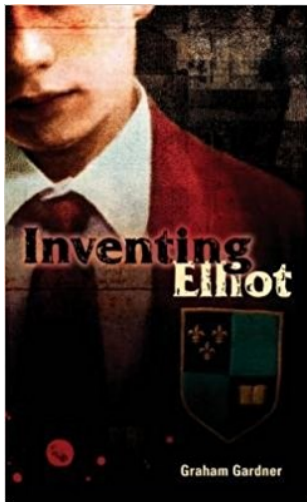




Genesis Prep English II & III

Make sure you fully read and understand both books I've chosen for you this summer. It is important you read them for our discussion and the test upon your return to school in August.



Book #1 *Inventing Elliot*—Graham Gardner

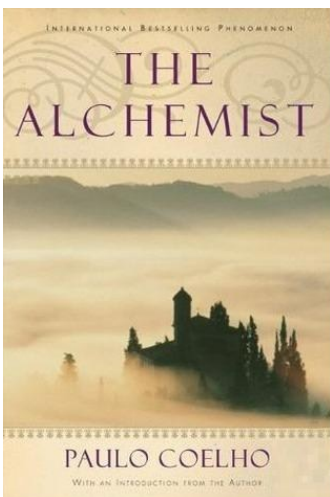
Part I “Anti-Bullying” Poster

- Legal Size (8 1/2 x 16) paper or larger—in color
- Create an anti-bullying poster addressing the issues of bullying and awareness
- *Must be printed prior to class—check: format, color, grammar, punctuation*

Part II Essay (MLA format) (400+ words / Works Cited Page as per MLA guidelines)

In a well-developed essay, address the following:

- What is bullying? Types of bullying. Effects of bullying.
- What Elliot had to go through as a victim of bullying and how did he change throughout the novel.
- Conclusion: Have you ever experienced bullying? Directly or Indirectly? How? What did you do to change the outcome/situation? What lesson can you teach others about bullying?



Book #2 *The Alchemist*—Paulo Coelho

"To realize one's destiny is a person's only obligation"

1. Create a map of all the geographical locations in the novel. Map out Santiago's journey.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

All the work and writing must be your own. Plagiarism will result in an “F”. No exceptions.

Book #2 *The Alchemist*—Paulo Coelho

Questions for Novel Study:

1. Why does Coelho open with the modified myth of Narcissus? How does the new version differ from the original one? How does it change the myth's meaning? What might the author be suggesting about how we perceive ourselves and the world?
2. The novel opens with Santiago thinking about his sheep. What does he observe about their existence? How might the sheep symbolize the way some people live their lives? How does his observation that they "have forgotten to rely on their own instincts" foreshadow later events in the story?
3. To what degree is his father's observation about travelers ("They come in search of new things, but when they leave they are basically the same people they were when they arrived.") true about Santiago?
4. Why does the old fortune teller say that Santiago's dream is difficult to interpret? Why is Santiago suspicious of her?
5. King Mechizedek tells the boy that when we are children, "everything is clear and everything is possible," but as time passes mysterious forces convince us to abandon our dreams (p. 23). Do you think this is true? What are the "mysterious forces" that threaten to hold us back as we grow older?
6. The King also tells the boy that when you really desire something "all the universe conspires to help you find it" (p. 24). And he explains the principle of "favorability," or beginner's luck. From whom does Santiago receive help on his journey? Have you ever benefited from beginner's luck?
7. The old man tells Santiago the story about the miner and the emerald on p. 24. How does it connect to Santiago's situation? What does he mean when he says that "treasure is uncovered by the force of flowing water, and it is buried by the same currents"? What does this quote have to do with the miner/emerald story?
8. What point does the old man's story about the boy in the castle and the drops of oil (p.30-32) make? How might this story apply to us in our modern lives?
9. What tests and setbacks does the boy experience on his journey? Why is it important that he faces and overcomes these challenges? How would the novel be different if his quest was easier?
10. How do Santiago's thoughts and perceptions about himself and the world begin to change on pp. 42-44? Describe three things that Santiago sees now that he had never noticed before.
11. After he has been robbed of all his money in Tangier, how does Santiago choose to regard his situation? Did this surprise you? What allows him to understand his loss in this way?
12. What chain of events leads the boy to work at the crystal shop? What does he learn there? Why is he able to change and improve the shop, which has remained the same for many years? How is he different from the shop's owner? Why do you think Coelho chose crystal? How does the crystal merchant's explanation for not taking the pilgrimage to Mecca (p.55) highlight the difference between Santiago and the merchant? What effect does the merchant say Santiago has had on him?
13. The Englishman and his goals are described on pp.65-70. What is he looking for? What does he demonstrate to Santiago that he already knows? On p. 78, he says that the progress made at the crystal shop is an example of the principle of the Soul of the World. What does he mean? How does he define this? How does he connect the idea to the relationship between the caravan and the desert?
14. The oasis is described in great detail. How does its lushness, laughter and color reflect what Santiago finds there? Where else in the story does Coelho provide details about the physical setting in order to lend more meaning to the events which occur there?
15. Explain how Santiago's union with Fatima represents the Language of the World, according to Santiago on p.93. Why does Fatima accept that her new husband wanders the desert, as she explains on p.98?
16. What is the meaning of the two dead hawks and the falcon in the oasis? How does this omen change Santiago's status in society?
17. During his trek through the desert with the alchemist, Santiago is told of many basic truths. The alchemist says, "There is only one way to learn. It's through action. Everything you need to know you have learned through your journey" (p.125). What are some of the things Santiago has learned through action?
18. Why do you think the alchemist tells Santiago the story about the man's dream about the two sons (the poet and the soldier) on p. 156?
19. Why did Santiago have to go through the dangers of the tribal wars on the outskirts of the oasis in order to reach the Pyramids? At this point, the boy remembers the old proverb: "The darkest hour of the night came just before the dawn." How does this apply to his situation now? At the end of the journey, why did the alchemist leave Santiago alone to complete it?
20. Earlier in the story, the alchemist told Santiago "when you possess great treasures within you, and try to tell others of them, seldom are you believed." At the end of the story, how did this simple lesson change Santiago's life? How did it lead him back to the treasure he was looking for?