**CCS Summer Reading 2025** **English 2**

**Required Reading:** *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho  
Please use this version only **ISBN: 978-0722532935 . Used books are fine.**

**Students need a physical copy of the book for annotating AND to bring to class the first two weeks of school to use in class discussions and activities.**

### **About Summer Reading**

Students entering 10th grade are required to read a novel selected by the CCS English Department. This book will serve as part of the curriculum for the beginning of the school year. After reading the book, students must complete the assignment described below and submit it **no later than the third day of school**.

This assignment will count as the first quiz grade in English class. **If the assignment is not submitted in Google Classroom by the third day of school, it will receive a zero. No late assignments will be accepted.** There will also be a test on the book during the first week of school.

### **Submission Instructions**

10th grade students must submit their completed work in a typed document on Google Classroom using the log-in information below. **Be sure to join the correct class.** If you are unsure of your placement (English 2 or English 2 Honors), please contact the school counselor, Mrs. Cindy Balsam (cindy.balsam@communitychristianschool.net).

Go to [classroom.google.com](http://classroom.google.com) and click "Join a class." Use the code below to enroll:

* **Google Classroom Code for English 2:** n4uecbgc
* If you need assistance joining, please watch this instructional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqF-DZ0jIkE>

### **Assignment Instructions: Read the entire summer reading assignment document. Complete each step of the assignment.**

**STEP ONE:  
Purchase** y**our own copy of *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (ISBN: 978-0722532935). A used copy is fine. Read the book and annotate.** Students should make personal annotations throughout the text. Yes, that means you should WRITE IN YOUR BOOK. **I want to see your annotations during the first week of school.**

These annotations should include:

**Reactions and personal insights** (what surprised you, made you laugh or made you mad, made you think, etc.)

**Analysis of themes, motifs, and symbolism** (note repeated patterns, references, etc.)

**Character development observations** (make notes about how Santiago changes)

**Questions that arise as you read** (write questions in the margins, things to ask in class or look up on your own)

**Significant passages and quotations** (if a certain passage or quote “speaks” to you, highlight/underline it and in the margin tell why this grabbed your attention)

**STEP TWO:**Answer the following questions thoroughly. Type the questions, and respond in complete sentences with thoughtful, specific answers. Your responses must show evidence of careful reading and engagement with the text.

### **Comprehension Questions–Remember to type the question and answer using complete sentences.**

1. Who is Santiago? How is he introduced at the beginning of the story?
2. Why does Santiago become a shepherd? How does this decision reflect his personality and priorities?
3. What recurring dream does Santiago have, and what advice does the Gypsy woman give him?
4. What is the geographical setting at the beginning of the book?
5. What do Santiago’s parents plan for him and how does he change that plan?
6. What does Santiago plan to do in Tarifa?
7. Santiago stops in Tarifa to consult with an old woman about his recurring dream. What price does she charge him?
8. Santiago meets an old man in the village. What is his name? What do you think the author would have included this name in the novel?
9. What does the old man want in payment for helping Santiago?
10. How does the old man convince Santiago of his power?
11. How does the old man explain the concept of Personal Legends to Santiago? Why does the old man believe that few people ever really attain their Personal Legends?
12. What is the significance of the Urim and Thummim stones? (It may help to look up the following verses in the Bible where these stones are mentioned: Genesis 28:29-30, Leviticus 8:8, Numbers 27:21, 1 Samuel 14:41, Ezra 2:63)
13. Why does the old man tell Santiago to follow “omens?”
14. What does the old man take from the breastplate as a gift to Santiago?
15. The old man tells Santiago a story that concludes with the secret of happiness. According to the old man, what is the secret of happiness?
16. When Santiago decides to leave his home country of Spain in order to follow his personal legend, where does he go?
17. How are the two locations different in regards to food/drink, religion, customs, etc?
18. What happens when Santiago follows his new friend into the marketplace?
19. Although Santiago does not speak Arabic, he has a conversation with the candy seller. Why is this important?
20. What comfort do the black and white stones provide to Santiago?
21. Describe the first interaction between Santiago and the crystal merchant.
22. What lessons does Santiago teach the crystal merchant?
23. Who is the Englishman and what do readers learn about him?
24. What motivates the Englishman to befriend Santiago?
25. On page 71, the leader of the caravan provides readers with a metaphor (comparison of two unlike things without using the words *like* or *as)* about the desert. What comparison is being made?
26. According to the Englishman, what is the Soul of the World? What is an alchemist?
27. Explain the Elixir of Life, the Master Work, and the Philosopher’s Stone (p.80-81).
28. Why is the alchemist watching people as they enter the oasis from the caravan?
29. Describe the oasis.
30. What does it mean when a woman in the oasis is dressed in black?
31. What is the language of the world? How does Santiago learn it?
32. Who is Fatima, and how does Santiago’s love for her test his commitment to his Personal Legend?
33. What agreement do Fatima and Santiago come to?
34. Santiago sees two hawks as an omen. What do they signify?
35. What happens when Santiago visits the tribal chieftains to tell them about his vision?
36. What test do the chieftains outline for Santiago?
37. Describe Santiago’s first interaction with the alchemist.
38. Describe the battle at the oasis.
39. What is Santiago’s reward for saving the oasis?
40. Describe the “goodbyes” that are said between Fatima and Santiago as he is leaving.
41. What advice does the alchemist give about listening to one’s heart? Do you agree or disagree with this advice? Explain your reasoning.
42. The author includes many examples of foreshadowing (hints about things that might occur later) in pages 123-143. How do we know that Santiago awaits more trouble on his quest?
43. What do the Arabs find when they search the alchemist? Why did the allow the alchemist to keep the treasure?
44. The alchemist tells Santiago, “When you possess great treasures within you, and you try to tell others of them, seldom are you believed.” Interpret this quote.
45. What happens when the alchemist and the boy are both taken into the military camp?
46. Why would the alchemist set up such a “test” for Santiago?
47. Who is at risk of death here?
48. As Santiago is attempting to turn himself into the wind, who does he hold conversations with?
49. Crisits apply the term *pathetic fallacy* to instances in which human emotions (such as reason or sympathy) are given to parts of the natural world. Based upon this definition, what three aspects of the natural world are personified in this way during Santigo’s efforts to turn himself into the wind?
50. Two people are smiling after Santiago turns himself into the wind. Who are they? Why are they smiling?
51. What does the alchemist do at the Coptic monastery?
52. How does the alchemist distribute the gold? Why does he think Santiago might need the gold later?
53. What is the point of the alchemist’s story about the sons of the Roman emperor Tiberius?
54. What advice does Santiago’s heart give him as he approaches the Pyramids? What does he do when he sees the Pyramids?
55. Who approaches Santiago as he digs in the sand, and what do they do?
56. What story does one attacker tell Santiago?
57. After the attackers leave, Santiago gets up from the sand and begins to laugh. Why?
58. The Alchemist presents readers with a lot of important lessons learned by Santiago throughout his journey. What ONE lesson do you think was the most important for him to learn? Why?

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### **Step Three: Read the information about academic integrity.**

### **A Note on Academic Integrity at CCS**

A student’s homework and in-class work fulfills the instructor’s intentions in a specific class:

* **Individual assignments must be completed individually.** No collaboration or shared documents.
* **Direct copying is not allowed.** Your work must be original.

**Plagiarism** **of any kind will result in a zero and disciplinary consequences. This includes:**

* Copying and pasting answers found online
* Copying another student’s work **or** allowing your work to be copied
* Using websites or programs that summarize or answer questions for you
* Using AI (e.g., ChatGPT or similar tools) to complete your answers
* Paraphrasing without proper citation

### **Prohibited Online Sources (Do NOT use these):**

* ChatGPT or any other AI tools Wikipedia.com
* [YahooAnswers.com](http://yahooanswers.com) eHow.com
* [GradeSaver.com](http://gradesaver.com) Answers.com
* [SparkNotes.com](http://sparknotes.com) CliffsNotes.com
* [BookRags.com](http://bookrags.com) Shmoop

***\*Basically, just do your OWN work using your own brain.***

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**STEP FOUR: Sign the acknowledgement.**

**Acknowledgment statement: Students and parents should sign this form to acknowledge completion of the summer reading assignment. Students should initial beside each item.**

**I completed the summer reading assignment as directed.**

\_\_\_\_ I purchased my own copy of the book and annotated (made notes in it) as I read.

\_\_\_\_ I answered all the comprehension questions as directed: typed the question and answered all parts.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that I need to bring my annotated copy of the book to class for the first two weeks of class.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that the summer reading assignment counts as a quiz grade.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that there will be a test over the summer reading novel during the first week of school.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that I will need to participate in class discussions and/or group activities about the summer reading novel during the first two weeks of school.

\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the academic integrity policy.

\_\_\_\_ I attest that the work I am turning in is my own. I adhered to the academic integrity policy.

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Student signature Parent signature

**STEP FIVE:** Submit your completed assignment to Google classroom using the code listed on page 1 by the third day of class.