

## Approved for use in all levels of Senior or A. P. Senior

### Summary of the Work:

Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and inspiring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles along the way. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

### Rationale:

*The Alchemist* is intended to compliment the Contemporary World literature, senior English IV option. Paulo Coelho is one of the bestselling and most influential authors in the world. *The Alchemist* and several other titles by the author have sold more than 65 million copies in 150 countries and have been translated into 60 languages. Among Latin American writers, only Gabriel Garcia Marquez is more widely read than Brazil's Paulo Coelho.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Most recent critical essays may be viewed on a number of websites, including Amazon.com.

From *Kirkus Reviews*, August 15, 1991

\* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

\* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

### Noted Distinction:

- Fiction

### Readability:

- Lexile Score:
- Readability Level:

### Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

### Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

### Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 2008

### Notes on the Text:

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)*

*The Alchemist* provides examples of magical realism and parable.

### Connection to the Curriculum:

World Literature is devoted to the study of classical World and British Literature, exploring the hero and other archetypes through Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Contemporary periods. First semester stories will concentrate on myth and archetypal patterns in stories about Beginnings, Endings, Monsters, and Monster Slayers and Heroes. Students will be able to recognize, appreciate, and express the unity and diversity of the human experience as expressed through world mythology, literature, and culture. The focus of writing will be refining and expanding effective writing skills through critical and analytical writing, timed writing, and research.

### Additional Connections:

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*