

**Sophomore Summer Reading
for the 2014-2015 school year
Cover Sheet**

Sophomore English:

- 1 Assigned Book – *The Alchemist*
(attached below)
- 1 book of choice use Summer Reading Packet
Grades 10 – 12 for project.
(separate online document)

Sophomore English Honors:

- 2 Assigned Books – *The Kite Runner*
(attached below)
 - *The Alchemist*
(attached below)
- 1 books of choice – Summer Reading Packet
Grades 10 – 12 for project.
(separate document)

Summer Reading Assignment - English 2 & 2H
***The Alchemist* ISBN: 0-978-0-06-112241-5**
by: Paulo Coelho

***We encourage each student to purchase the above mentioned novel according to ISBN number to ensure that all students are on the same page (literally ☺).

DIRECTIONS: After reading the novel, answer the following questions. Your responses should be typed using MLA format. Each response should be at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page in length. Each question should be on a separate page – although all responses should be in one document. **This assignment will be collected during the first week of class.**

All senior English sections will be reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Please purchase the paperback with the ISBN # 9780061122415 ONLY! There is another paperback novel, by another author, also entitled *The Alchemist*, and I would not want your student purchasing or reading an incorrect work. All students who purchase the ISBN # above will be encouraged to donate their paperbacks for extra credit, when we finish with the novel (regardless of notations or writing in the text.)

The study guide includes 8 assignments, each with 10 questions. Please use the following guidelines to complete the summer reading assignment:

1. Computer generate (if you DO NOT have access to a computer during the summer, you may hand write your answers, but please compose neatly on wide-rule paper.)
2. Use a MLA heading.
3. Separate your answers by Assignment #, for example, Assignment 1, Assignment 2.
4. For each assignment, answer all 10 questions in complete sentences. NO yes, no, or one word answers will be given any credit.
5. All summer reading assignments are due on the first day back to school in August: **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

*Remember, this will be the first grade you receive for the new school year, so I know that you will all want to start off with an incredible score; however, we will study this novel as an entire unit, so please read thoroughly.



STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho)

Assignment 1

Prologue & Part One through "And he vanished around the corner of the plaza."

1. Why does the lake weep for Narcissus?
2. What is the most recent topic of the shepherd boy's comments to his sheep?
3. How does the boy spend his time when the merchant tells him he cannot shear his sheep until the afternoon?
4. What does the shepherd claim are "the only things that concerned the sheep"?
5. What had the shepherd's family hoped the boy would become as an adult?
6. What does the shepherd plan to do once he arrives in Tarifa before his anticipated meeting with the merchant's daughter?
7. Why does the shepherd decide to see the Gypsy woman?
8. Describe the shepherd boy's recurring dream.
9. According to the old man, what is the world's greatest lie?
10. According to the old man, what is the one great truth on this planet?

Assignment 2

"The boy began again to read his book" to the end of Part One

1. Why does the shepherd decide against telling the baker what the old man had said about him?
 2. What does the boy see when he climbs the stone ramp that led to the top of the castle wall?
 3. What is the "principle of favorability" that the old man speaks of?
 4. What happens immediately after the old man tells the boy that he "will have to follow the omens" in order to find his treasure?
 5. What are Urim and Thummim?
 6. According to the "wisest of wise men," what is the secret of happiness?
 7. What causes the shepherd boy to become distracted and, as a result, lose sight of the young man who is holding his money?
 8. After helping the candy seller erect his stall in the plaza, to what realization did the shepherd boy come?
 9. What does the boy do to earn food to eat?
 10. After the owner of the crystal shop tells the boy how expensive it is to get to Egypt, what does the boy say he wants money for?
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Assignment 3

Beginning of Part Two to "I don't even know what alchemy is," the boy was saying, when the warehouse boss called them to come inside."

1. Why does the boy stay on the job with the crystal merchant?
2. In order to attract more business after working there for one month, what does the boy suggest that the crystal merchant allow him to do?
3. What are the five obligations outlined by the Prophet in the Koran?
4. Why didn't the crystal merchant ever go on a pilgrimage to Mecca?
5. What reason does the merchant tell the boy about why he would not go to Mecca now?
6. After another two months of working for the merchant, what idea does the boy have to bring more customers into the crystal shop?
7. Why does the merchant claim to feel worse than he did before the boy arrived to work for him?
8. When the boy tells the merchant that he is going to be leaving to return to his country to buy sheep, he asks for the merchant's blessing. What does the merchant say about the boy's journey home?
9. Where does the boy decide to go once he leaves the merchant's home?
10. Who befriends the boy on the journey?

Assignment 4

"I'm the leader of the caravan" through "The boy thought of Fatima. And he decided he would go to see the chiefs of the tribes."

1. How large is the caravan the boy is traveling with?
2. How does the Englishman spend most of his time during the journey?
3. How did the camel driver who befriended the boy come to be in this line of work?
4. Who are the mysterious hooded men who sometimes appeared?
5. What news does the caravan leader learn that causes the members to become more cautious while traveling, especially at night?
6. What does the Englishman call "the principle that governs all things?"
7. What is the "Emerald Tablet"?
8. What is the liquid part of the Master Work called?
9. What is the solid part of the Master Work called?
10. Who is Fatima?

Assignment 5

"The boy approached the guard" through "We'll leave tomorrow before sunrise,' was the alchemist's response."

1. What "omens from the desert" does the boy share with the chieftains of the oasis?
2. Who was the boy who saved Egypt through his interpretations of the Pharaoh's dreams?
3. What decision does the head chieftain make about the boy's visions?
4. What causes a loud, thundering sound and throws the boy to the ground?
5. According to the man on horseback, what is "the quality most essential to understanding the Language of the World?"
6. Who is the man on horseback?
7. What is the fate of the commander of the enemy battalion?
8. What words does the alchemist say that echo those of the old king?
9. When riding out into the desert, what does the alchemist instruct the boy to show him?

Assignment 6

"The boy spent a sleepless night" through "I already know how to turn myself into the wind."

1. Before leaving the oasis, where does the boy go?
2. What does the desert come to mean for Fatima?
3. How do the boy and the alchemist find food in the desert?
4. Why is the boy disappointed when the alchemist writes in the sand what is inscribed on the Emerald Tablet?
5. What is it that the alchemist tells the boy that he has to listen to?
6. According to the alchemist, what is worse than suffering?
7. What is one thing that, according to the alchemist, the boy still needs to know?
8. What do the armed tribesmen find in the alchemist's bag?
9. Why don't the tribesmen take what is in the alchemist's bag?
10. After they are captured by a tribe, what does the alchemist claim that the boy is able to do?

Assignment 7

"On the second day, the boy climbed to the top of a cliff" through "They mounted their horses."

1. What does the desert ask the boy to explain to it?
2. When the desert tells the boy that it cannot help him, who does it suggest that the boy call on for help?

3. When asked who taught the boy the language of the desert and wind, what is the boy's reply?
4. Who is the third "person" the boy is told to ask for help from?
5. What is the chief's plan for the two men who wanted to end the bet with the boy?
6. How does the sun claim to know about love?
7. According to the boy, why does alchemy exist?
8. Why does the wind "scream with delight?"
9. What legend did the Arabs recount for generations thereafter?
10. What feat does the alchemist perform at the monastery?

Assignment 8

"I want to tell you a story about dreams" through the Epilogue

1. Describe the dream the alchemist tells to the boy.
2. What did the centurion say that was remembered for all time?
3. What warning does the boy's heart whisper as he is about to climb a large dune?
4. What does the boy see when he finally reached the top of the dune?
5. As the boy wept at the sight that beheld him, what does he notice in the sand?
6. What does the boy do when he sees the omen?
7. Describe what happens when the refugees from the tribal wars approach the boy.
8. What piece of advice does the leader of the refugees give the boy before he leaves?
9. How does the boy finance his journey back to Spain?
10. What does the boy find beneath the sycamore tree in the ruined church?

Summer Reading Assignment - English 2 Honors Part 1
Study Guide for *The Kite Runner* ISBN: 978-1594480003
By: Khaled Hosseini

***We encourage each student to purchase the above mentioned novel according to ISBN number to ensure that all students are on the same page (literally ☺).

Directions: Complete the following major works data sheet as you read. **This assignment will be collected the first week of school.**



MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

<p>Title: _____</p> <p>Author: _____</p> <p>Genre: _____</p>	<p>Biographical Information about the Author</p>
<p>Plot Summary (use bullet points)</p>	

Memorable Quotes (8-10)

Quotation (chapter and page)

Significance of Quote

Characters (10-12)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role in Story</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>

Setting

Significance of Opening Scene

Symbols (2-4)

Significance of Closing Scene

Possible Themes (2-4)

Summer Reading Assignment - English 2 Honors Part 2
Study Guide for *The Kite Runner* ISBN: 978-1594480003
By: Khaled Hosseini

***We encourage each student to purchase the above mentioned novel according to ISBN number to ensure that all students are on the same page (literally ☺).

Directions: As you read, take the following questions into consideration. After you read, respond to each of the questions below. Your responses should be typed using MLA format. Each response should be at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page in length. Each question should be on a separate page – although all responses should be in one document. **This assignment will be collected during the first week of class.**

Questions:

1. The novel begins “I became what I am today at the age of twelve.” To what is Amir referring? Is his assertion entirely true? What other factors have helped form his character? How would you describe Amir?
2. It is Amir’s dearest wish to please his father. What fuels this wish? To what extent does he succeed in doing so and at what cost? What kind of man is Baba? How would you describe his relationship with Amir and Hassan? How does that relationship change, and what prompts those changes?
3. The strong underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Discuss their friendship. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan’s true friend? Why does Amir constantly test Hassan’s loyalty? Why does he resent Hassan? After the kite fighting tournament, why does Amir no longer want to be Hassan’s friend?
4. Amir’s confrontation with Assef in Wazir Akar marks an important turning point in the novel. Why does the author have Amir, Assef, and Sohrab all come together in this way? What is the significance of the scar that Amir develops as a result of the confrontation? Why is it important in Amir’s journey toward forgiveness and acceptance?
5. Each character in the novel is shaped not only by his particular circumstances, but by the historical and political events that occur during his life. Consider Sohrab, the only character of his generation; how is he different from the other characters and how are these differences a function of what he has experienced?
6. Could the story of the novel exist without the class difference between Amir and Hassan?
7. Think about acts of violence in the novel individually and as a whole. Why is violence so essential to the story? Could the story occur without so much violence?
8. Think about the fathers in the novel. According to the novel, what does it mean to be a father? How can one measure one's success at fathering? Some characters to consider: Baba, Ali, Amir, Hassan, General Taheri, Farid, Wahid, Raymond Andrews.
9. Explore the way in which courage is portrayed in the novel. What constitutes true bravery? What are the key moments when characters are brave and who is the bravest character, if any? Use specific examples from the text to support your argument.
10. Even though countless events occur in the novel, the title refers to kite fighting and kite running. What do these activities represent in the novel and why are they so important? To whom or what does the title, "The Kite Runner," refer?