

Secondary II Summer Reading 11/12th Grade Learners

Expected for all learners in eleventh and twelfth grades:

A. Locate, read, and annotate *The Alchemist*.

- What is annotation/annotating?

Helpful video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muZcJXlfCWs>

- Use sticky notes/flags to mark pages of interest or that support the ideas in the next statement. The video models this for you.
- Record your thoughts regarding the questions listed below this paragraph. (It is wise to take notes as you are reading and mark pages that support your opinion.) Be prepared with these ideas for our first meeting.
 - What is an alchemist?
 - What excited or surprised you about the novel?
 - What upset or frustrated you about the novel?
 - What do you think the theme of the novel is?
 - What helped you come to that understanding about theme?
 - What do you still have questions about regarding the plot, characters, etc.?

Expected for learners who are pursuing an Honors curriculum:

B. Honors-level learners **will also** select a novel they have not already read to complete the following writing assignment. Please select only **one** topic for discussion. Please print and bring for our first meeting.

Prepare a well-crafted essay of at least 5 paragraphs in which a thesis statement is included at the end of the introductory paragraph offering readers an overall understanding of the discussion, topic sentences frame each paragraph, and a conclusion neatly closes down the paragraph.

1. Conflict plays a vital role in all piece of literature. What types of conflicts arise in the novel? What is the central conflict of the novel? How does this conflict get resolved? How might one of the conflicts translate to the world in which we live today? Helpful video: <https://ed.ted.com/on/2AiUn1bS>
2. What do you think is the theme of the novel? How do you come to understand this theme? How might this theme translate to the world in which we live today? Helpful video: <https://literarydevices.net/theme/>
3. Authors use a variety of literary devices to interest their readers. Take some time to review literary devices at the following website: <http://literary-devices.com> . Determine at least three types of literary device used within the novel you selected. Cite examples of these devices from the selected novel and explain the intended purpose of each.

Summer Reading Rationale: The selection of *The Alchemist* will benefit all 11/12th grade learners, especially in terms of the concept of “journey” as you will learn more about. The selection of a novel of choice promotes continued engagement with text outside the school year, allowing learners to “get credit” for reading something they haven’t had time to pursue. It’s a win-win!