

Novel: The Alchemist by Paul Coelho

Each of the two essays must be at a minimum 500 words. The essays do not need to be formal; you may use personal pronouns. Do not use a MLA style header, although a good title is appropriate and will be appreciated. Use plenty of the text to support your thoughts... MLA citations needed (Author, page number)(Coelho 39) for first time, then (page number) (95). No block quotes of more than 3 lines. Please make sure that the novel is on your works cited page. No other sources are needed or required for this assignment. However, if you do use an outside source, please make sure to cite that source and have a proper works cited entry. Proofread for general mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation and the like). You should have no more than a 25% originality report as long as it is properly cited.

Respond to one of the Writing Prompts

Section A:

1. In the novel, *The Alchemist*, the merchant tells Santiago, "I don't want to change anything, because I don't know how to deal with change. I used to the way I am." (Coelho 58)

Recount a time in your life when change was difficult for yourself or someone you know.

2. What is a "Personal Legend?" How does one find their own Personal Legend? What is your own Personal Legend?

Respond to one of the Writing Prompts

Section B:

1. *The Alchemist* is written in a fable format. What is a fable, and why would Coelho use it to tell his story? Generally speaking, fables use recognizable, simple characters and settings in order to illustrate a simple truth about life or human nature. What is it that Coelho attempts to teach?

2. Before his journey begins, Santiago asks a gypsy woman and an old man for help; they both ask for payment. Although both interactions represent the fact that one must pay a price to follow one's dreams, only one of these payments will yield the desired result. Which one? Why? Which payment is a representation of false hopes? How can you tell?

3. Many spiritual quests involve a journey into the desert. Why do you think that is? In what ways is the desert a perfect setting for a spiritual journey? How did the desert help Santiago on his journey?

4. Discuss the significance of the novels' ending in detail.