**advancedENGLISH10 Independent Reading Assignment #2 DUE TUESDAY, MAY 31ST**

**The Alchemist by: Paulo Coelho**

**Introduction:** Every once in a while, a book comes a long that changes your life and allows you to look at things differently. At the end of high school, I read the Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom, and it basically shaped the way I looked at college and networking. At the end of college, The Alchemist was presented to me. The subtitle simply says it’s “a fable about following your dream.” Although it seems so broad and sounds almost like children’s book, Coelho tells a great story full of transformation, optimism, and reflection.

All year I have taught you things that have helped me along the way when I was in high school. Consider this my last, ultimate gift to you as you move on to your Junior year. It’s a novella, approximately only 30,000 words long, but sometimes *less means more.*

**Book:** <http://www.altiusyouth.com/resources/samanwaya/Paulo-Coelho-The-Alchemist.pdf>

<http://www.intekworld.com/freeresources/selfdevelopment/paulocoelho_thealchemist.pdf>

***Library, B & N or Amazon.com***

**Assignment: Two Parts. Two Blogs. Whatever you want.**

If you noticed this year, I have given you papers in which you decided the topics. These are known as “i-Search” papers. I give you a range and you decide the topic. It allows you to make a written assignment 100% yours. The symbolism paper, you chose the movie; Vignette, you chose the style and poem; Family Paper, you chose the family member; and Research Paper, you chose the thesis. Since I want The Alchemist to relate to you… I want your Independent Reading assignment to be just that… **completely yours.**

*The only requirement:* Two Blogs, equivalent to one page double-spaced on Word each *(approx. 200-250 words).* One posted after part one and one posted when you’re done. If you want to read the whole thing at once and post both blogs at the same time, that’s fine. The Alchemist is full of making choices to decide your fate, so that’s exactly what you have to do.

If you are struggling as to what to write about, I will post some possible questions on my website; but honestly, I want **you** to formulate posts that include your thoughts and reflections. The possibilities are endless.

**Rubric:**  1 Blog after Part 1 (equivalent to 1 double-spaced, Word doc) 20 points

1 Blog after Part 2 (same as blog 1) 20 points

**TOTAL 40 points**