

The Alchemist - Part 2 Assignment:

- Submit double-spaced typed paragraph responses (1/2 to 1 page each) for any **three** of the following:
 - **36 marks** - Note: see attached marking criteria. **Due** _____
1. Examine at least three instances where Santiago has to pay a price to fulfill his dream. Does he ever find the price too high? Why or why not?
 2. What does the author mean when he says that “alchemy is all about pursuing our spiritual quest in the physical world as it was given to us? It is the art of transmuting reality into something sacred, of mixing the sacred with the profane.” How does this statement apply to Santiago?
 3. While Santiago worked for the crystal merchant, he learned everything from proper business techniques to having patience. Give examples of these lessons and discuss which were the most crucial to the pursuit of his dream and why.
 4. The crystal merchant didn’t want to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, because he feared that the reality would be disappointing compared to the fantasy he carried within him. On the other hand, Santiago came to believe that achieving his goal was more satisfactory. Explain which of the two you agree with and why.
 5. Discuss the character of the Englishman from the following perspectives: the universal language for which he is searching; the comparisons he makes between reading and alchemy; and how his search for the alchemist compares to Santiago’s search for his treasure.
 6. Discuss the character of the alchemist from the following perspectives: why he chose to help Santiago when he knew that the Englishman was searching for him; why he carries one bird, the falcon, around on his shoulder, but chooses to kill two other birds, the hawks; and how his process of turning base metal into gold compares to finding a Personal Legend.
 7. Explain why Santiago has to face the danger of the tribal wars in the desert and why he has to, in the end, find the pyramids on his own.
 8. Explain how the alchemist’s observation to Santiago that “when you possess great treasures within you, and you try to tell others of them, seldom are you believed” eventually saved Santiago’s life and led him back to the treasure.
 9. Apply what the author says about the four obstacles of life in his foreword to Santiago and his journey.
 10. Name any five lessons Santiago learned and how he mastered them.

