

The Alchemist

Paulo Coelho

Things to annotate as you read...

1. Plot Events – make note in the book to mark important plot events
2. Unknown words – highlight, underline or circle **AND** look them up
3. Time stamps – note time that elapses between major events
4. Characters – highlight, underline or circle phrases that describe characters
5. Themes – make note of themes encountered
6. Figurative Language – identify figurative language **AND** meaning
7. Questions – if an event or idea perplexes you, write it on the page

Hints:

1. Do not mark too much because then nothing will stand out!
2. Read the novel twice. Once for enjoyment and then for analysis.
3. Keep your note taking consistent (same color highlighter for characters, underline for unknown words, etc.)
4. **DO NOT** wait until the week before class starts to read this novel!
5. Bring your study guide and novel to class the **FIRST DAY!**
6. You will have a test over the novel the first week.

Things to think about as you read...

1. **Fable** – not your traditional fable in which the characters are played by animals, but it does contain a universal moral that Coelho desires you to learn.
2. **Allegory** – narrative that is both literal and figurative; watch for and interpret the symbols
3. **Themes** – Pursuing Dreams, Transformation, Understanding One's Relationship to Nature and to God, Love Without Possession, Living Life Through Action (be able to identify examples from the novel)
4. **Key Issues** – Personal Legends, Maktub (means "it is written"), Dreams, Omens
5. **Moral** – be able to identify and discuss the moral for this fable.

Most importantly, enjoy this novel! This is a wonderful novel about Personal Legends, and I am delighted that I get to share this novel with you this year.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Cowen