

# ***The Alchemist***

## **Mandala Project**

### **What is a Mandala?**

A mandala is a wondrous and meaningful design made in the form of a circle. A simple definition of the mandala is that it is a circular drawing made to represent the harmony and wholeness of life or the wholeness of a person. Tibetans used the mandalas for calming themselves and for thinking about the meaning of life.

### **Where did Mandalas originate?**

These special drawings were first created in Tibet over 2,000 years ago. Since then, they have been made by cultures from the Aztecs to the Navajo Indians to people today.

### **What are they used for?**

People often create mandalas to form a simple representation of who they are.

### **Why a circle?**

The shape of a mandala is a circle because a circle is the most simple and universal shape we find in the world around us. It is the form of an eye, the sun, and a snowflake. Also, since there is always a center to a circle, as you look at a circle it exercises your mind and draws you into the center of yourself or your topic.

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### **Requirements:**

1. Take 2-3 minutes to complete a quick write about Santiago. Consider what his essential qualities are, what defines him, and what is most important to him throughout the novel.
2. Include the novel title and author **outside** the Mandala.
3. Identify 6-8 symbols that represent who Santiago is in the novel and draw them on the Mandala Handout.
  - a. Must be hand-drawn or computer-generated (see my examples)
  - b. Tracing is acceptable
  - c. Can include no more than 2 words as symbols
4. Identify 2-3 quotes from the novel that help the reader understand Santiago's character.
5. Choose one symbol from the Mandala and write an 8-10 sentence analysis of how the symbol pertains to Santiago's character/journey.
  - a. This is **NOT** a plot summary! This is an analysis!
  - b. The symbol analysis will be typed and turned in on Classroom.
6. On the back of the Mandala, identify each symbol and what it represents in the novel.

**DUE: Monday, August 15**