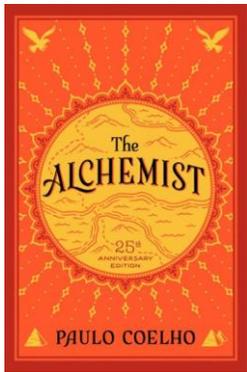


José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2019



Novel Selection

**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**



**Synopsis**

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

**Grading Criterion**

- The assignment is due by August 26-27, 2019 to your English Honors I. **Students should be prepared for a novel test the same week that the assignment is due.**
- Late submissions and email copies will NOT be accepted.
- Grades will be based on creativity, neatness, the accuracy of the information, and how well directions were followed.

**Resources**

Below are some ways to acquire free or inexpensive copies of the required summer reading:

1. The local libraries or bookstores have copies of most of the books.  
Note: **If you wait until the last minute, your selection will likely be limited.**
2. A list of websites (new or used copies) can be purchased at up to a 50% discount.
  - EBay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com))
  - Half.com ([www.half.ebay.com](http://www.half.ebay.com))
  - Amazon.com ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
  - Book Closets.com ([www.bookclosets.com](http://www.bookclosets.com)).

# Novel Writing Assignment

In *The Alchemist* Melchizedek says to Santiago upon their first meeting, "...whoever you are, or whatever it is that you do, when you really want something, it's because that desire originated in the soul of the universe. It's your mission on earth." Is this a notion that you agree with? Why or why not? Then write a well-organized essay in which you explore the validity of this assertion using examples from your reading, observation, studies or personal experience to develop your position.