

## English 12 Honors Summer Assignment

1 – Carefully read *The Alchemist* by Pablo Coelho.

2 – In a well-written essay, respond to ONE of the two prompts:

- Choose an unrealistic incident or character in *The Alchemist* and write an essay that explains how the incident or character actually reveals realistic elements or explains truth within the rest of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, has a significant role. Choose a character in *The Alchemist* who does not appear at all, or only briefly appears, and explain the role of that character in the novel. You may want to discuss how the character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters. Avoid plot summary.

### English 12 Honors: Summer Reading Rubric

Exceptional 1  10	These are well-written essays which <b>respond fully</b> to the assignment. The writing shows an understanding of word choice and tone of the speaker. The writers demonstrate <b>stylistic maturity</b> by their effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. The writing need not be without flaws, but it should reveal the writer’s ability to choose from and control a wide range of elements of effective writing.  <i>MLA format is correctly utilized, with little to no mistakes</i>
Strong  8.5	These essays also respond to the assignment asked <b>but do so less fully or less effectively than the essays in the top range</b> . These essays are well-written in an appropriate style but <b>reveal less maturity</b> than the top papers. They do make use of textual evidence to support their points. Some lapses in diction or syntax may appear, but the writing demonstrates <b>sufficient control</b> over the elements of composition to present the writer’s ideas clearly.  <i>MLA style format is correctly utilized, with some mistakes</i>
Proficient  7	These essays respond to the assignment, <b>but the comments may be simplistic or imprecise; they may be overly generalized, vague, or inadequately supported</b> . These essays are adequately written, but may demonstrate <b>inconsistent control over the elements of composition</b> . Organization is attempted, but it may not be fully realized or particularly effective.  <i>MLA style format is correctly utilized with consistent mistakes</i>
Redo must be completed	These essays attempt to deal with the assignment, <b>but do so either inaccurately or without support or specific evidence</b> . They may show some misunderstanding or omit pertinent analysis. The writing can convey the writer’s ideas, but it reveals <b>weak control</b> over diction, syntax, organization. <b>These essays may contain excessive and distracting spelling and grammatical errors</b> .  <i>MLA format is attempted, but utilized incorrectly in many parts of the essay</i>

*Example paper is below. Use this example paper for MLA formatting examples only; not content.*

Hull 1

Melissa Hull

Ms. Kelly

Eng 12 Honors

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### Breaking Tradition

Women's societal roles are constantly evolving. This evolution is evidenced through many different sources, but none so entertaining and thought provoking as through literature. Women in literature have a rich and intimate history. And depending on the point of view one takes, stories can portray women in a positive or negative light, asserting opinions about their role in society; ultimately shaping the way women assess her self-worth. At first, writers and literary critics were mostly men, as women had very little access to higher level education, but when they eventually forced their way into academia, many female writers and critics began to question their role in literature and literary criticism. They wondered why male academics wrote about them, often falsely, enjoying subservient marital roles and feeling satisfied with simple domestic tasks. This new way of looking at literature gave birth to a literary lens, now referred to as the feminist lens. According to the article *Literary Criticism for Dummies*, "feminist criticism is concerned with the impact of gender on writing and reading. It usually begins with a critique of patriarchal culture" (Davis 13). This means feminist critics look at gender roles in literature and often see them as nothing more than an arbitrary societal construct; unfairly imposed by society, often begging to be challenged.