

Summer Reading Assignments  
English 2 Honors 2019-2020

I. **Reading Assigned**

*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

“Flower-Myths: Narcissus, Hyacinth, Adonis” excerpt from *Mythology* by Edit Hamilton

*The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

II. **Dialectic Journals (50 pts.)**

*di-a-lec-tic* **noun** \ ,dī-ə - 'l ek-tik\ : discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation

1. **Purpose:** To uncover deep truths that Paulo Coelho is teaching us through *The Alchemist* and use of the hero's journey
2. **Task:** Keep an ongoing conversation in journal form about the details in this text and their many meanings.
3. **Outcome:** One Dialectical Journal with 40 analyzed quotes from the assigned texts. Do not simply use quotes found on Shmoop, Bookrags, Cliffnotes, or Sparknotes.

Journal Requirements:

- Identify significant quotes/passages from the three summer reading texts (for really long quotes you can use ellipses, but you must include the last few words of the passage in question) [SEP]
- Record passages on the left side of the page including the proper MLA documentation (see Chapter 1 model) [SEP]
- Focus analysis on **author's style, character analysis, themes, symbolism, etc.**
- Write at least 4-5 meaningful sentences about/interpreting each quote [SEP]
- All journal entries must be completed and submitted by the deadline
- Keep all entries together in chronological order and bring them to class every day [SEP]
- All entries will be submitted through Canvas as one document at the end of this project [SEP]

Assessment:

1. **Format**—page must be set up reasonably, with more room for interpretation (on the right) than quote (left).
2. **Content**—
  - Demonstrate meaningful, higher-level analysis of the texts, especially in regards to the hero's journey, symbolic archetypes, and Coelho's style. This is your conversation with the text. At the end, you should have a deep connection through which you have unearthed ideas Coelho is trying to share with his audience.
  - Summary is unacceptable. Context, however, is appropriate and often necessary for understanding the significance of the passage in question.
3. **Deadlines**—Journals are due via Canvas as a PDF on the first day of class. Failure to submit journals by the deadline will result in a zero.

- III. **The Exam** will take place on the first day of school and will cover all of the literature assigned. Please bring pencils and college-ruled notebook paper.

Best wishes,

Miss Povero

[npovero@aquinashs.net](mailto:npovero@aquinashs.net)

**The policy for Language Arts Department Honors courses states that students must receive passing scores (70% or higher) on all summer assignments in order to remain in the course.**

**Below is a sample of how to complete the dialectic journals. These passages are taken from J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. This is the format you should follow.**

Chapter 1 quote #1: "I'll just tell you about this madman stuff that happened to me around last Christmas just before I got pretty run-down and had to come out here and take it easy. I mean that's all I told D.B. about, and he's my brother and all" (1).

Salinger's using a very informal voice here with diction like "madman stuff" (1). This tells me that the narrator is not the most proper person, especially for the post-war time period when people were expected to behave "Pleasantly". This might be part of why he's an anti-hero. Also, Salinger mentions that this "madman stuff" occurred "around last Christmas," which is in the winter, the archetypal symbol for death (1). The things that we're about to read probably relate to death, which might be part of why this is an anti-hero's journey rather than a regular hero's journey.

Chapter 1 quote #2: "I was flunking four subjects and not applying myself and all. They gave me frequent warning to start applying myself—especially around mid-terms, when my parents came up for a conference with old Thurmer—but I didn't do it. So I got the ax. They give guys the ax quite frequently at Pencey. It has a very good academic rating, Pencey. It really does" (4).

The voice is still really informal here—Salinger has Holden use diction like "flunking" and "got the ax" (4). Because getting "the ax" means getting kicked out of school, we can see again that Holden is an anti-hero because most proper heroes do not fail in school. Salinger also uses syntax in a noticeable way: "So I got the Ax" is a tiny, simple sentence between really long ones, so it stands out (4). This means that Salinger really wants to emphasize that our anti-hero is a failure at school. Finally, he's "flunking four subjects," four being the archetypal symbol of the life cycle and nature (4). Maybe this is another connection to the concepts of life and death that will be explored in this story.