

HONORS ENGLISH SEMINAR:

There are two books assigned for Honors English Seminar: *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. We will have a quiz on these books on the second day of class. The quiz will involve short written response questions about the characters, setting, and plot. After discussing the book in class, we will have an in-class writing assignment. *In order to effectively prepare for these assessments, you should annotate as you read, and create a notes sheet, which includes the following elements:

- A **character list**, including a short explanation about each character
- The **setting(s)** for each chapter
- Note **moments of significance** in each chapter. A moment can be significant because it draws our attention to any of the following: character development, relationship development, a central conflict in the story, a pattern or motif within the story, an important shift or moment of growth, etc. *Aside from noting significant plot points, remember that moments can still be significant even when “nothing” is actually happening to advance the plot. Significant moments can exist within a lengthy description about a setting, an exchange during a conversation between two people, a character’s thoughts or realizations.
- **Thoughtful questions!** Note areas that confuse you or need further consideration, so you remember to return to them after you’ve finished reading the book.
- **Unfamiliar words and their definitions**
- No Sparknotes, Shmoop, Litcharts, etc! Notes that contain obvious borrowing (direct quotes and paraphrases) from these sources will be considered plagiarism. Disciplinary consequences will follow.

Your notes will be checked during the first week of school. Additionally, please take time over the summer to review any grammar weak spots that were identified by your English teacher last year (e.g., commas, run-on sentences). I recommend referring to the Purdue Owl website

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> , or chompchomp.com.