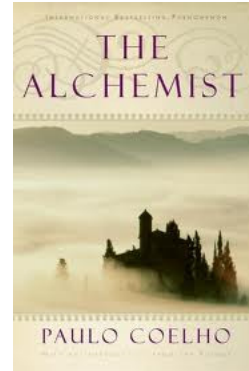


COURSE TITLE: Honors Post-Modern World Literature (**Grade 12**)

REQUIRED TEXT: *The Alchemist*

AUTHOR: Paulo Coelho

GENRE: Multi-Cultural



SUMMARY: First published in 1988, Brazilian author Coelho's inspirational, allegorical fable tells the charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world. It is compelling and gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns throughout his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific wisdom as well, about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams. The cumulative effect is like hearing a wonderful bedtime story from an inspirational psychiatrist (from Publisher's Weekly's editorial review).

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS):

While you read, you are to annotate for distinct elements of Santiago's cultural influences and growth throughout the tale Use any method of annotation you like including, but not limited to: Literature Log, post-it notes, marginal notes, highlighting.