



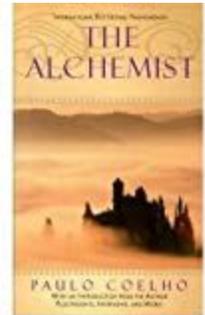
# BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS

Maximizing each student's potential as an individual and as a responsible citizen

## SUMMER READING 2020 HONORS ENGLISH III

### AN OVERVIEW: Read three books and complete the assignments:

1. You will read the Jr/Sr High School's grades 7-12 book, *I Will Always Write Back* and complete the quote analysis assignment.
2. You will read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho \*\* Be sure you are getting the book BY COELHO! There are other books called *The Alchemist* and answer questions attached below.
3. You will read a third book of your choice from the following list:
  - a. *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
  - b. *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
  - c. *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
  - d. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
  - e. *Native Son* by Richard Wright
  - f. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
  - g. YOUR CHOICE. It just has to be from an American Author and grade level appropriate. It can be of any genre. Not sure? Email me and ask!



Details for each book assignment are listed below.

Dear Jr/Sr High Berkshire Students,

It is just about summer, which means it is time for summer reading. This year, Berkshire Jr/Sr High School has decided to model the summer reading after "One Book, One City" and "One Book, One School" programs already active around our country. In other words, all students in grades 7-12 will read the same book! Berkshire's English Department collaboratively selected the nonfiction title ***I will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*** by **Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch** for the summer 2020. This unique format can help unify the staff and students, excavate themes through discussions in the classrooms, and encourage a community of readers by forming connections with one another.

### Overview (from Barnes & Noble)

***The New York Times* bestselling true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe — and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.**

*It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place.*

*Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.*

*That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.*

*In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends—and better people—through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.*

**About the authors(from Barnes & Noble)**

*Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda met as pen pals in 1997 and are still best friends today. Caitlin, an ER nurse, lives outside Philadelphia with her husband and young daughters. Martin currently lives in New York. He has dual degrees in mathematics and economics from Villanova University and an MBA in finance from Duke University.*

*Liz Welch is an award-winning journalist and memoirist whose critically acclaimed first book, *The Kids Are All Right*, co-authored with her sister Diana Welch, won an ALA Alex Award. Her stories have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Parade*, *Life*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *Real Simple*, *Self*, *Marie Claire*, and other publications.*

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**HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF THE BOOK?**

Each student is required to obtain a copy (through purchasing or borrowing) of the book. Here are some recommended sites that carry our title:

**Half Price Books:** <http://www.hpb.com>

**Amazon:** <https://www.amazon.com> (available on Kindle)

**Barnes and Noble:** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/> (available on Nook)

**Public Library:** Students may also borrow the book through the public library.

**Online PDF:** There are free PDF's of the book online.

Click here: [I Will Always Write Back](#)

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**THE ASSIGNMENT:**

As you read *I Will Always Write Back* you will keep a quote journal and try to make connections between the book and your own life. Be prepared to submit your summer reading quote journal and partake in class discussions.

**Step 1: GET THE BOOK**

You are responsible for securing a copy of the book. See above for a few options.

**Step 2: Read ACTIVELY and complete the quote journal entries for the book.** These notes will serve as your preparation for discussions and any additional assignments that you will be required to complete **in class during the first week of school.**



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**Step 3:** As you read your book, keep a quote journal of the important aspects in each book. These quotes should be used to help you write your essays upon your return to school.

- You must have a total of 10 entries but you may complete more
  - You must have three (3) quotes from the beginning (pages 1-96), four (4) quotes from the middle (pages 96-192), and three (3) quotes from the end of the book (pages 192-288).
  - You will find quotes to support the questions from Prompt A, B and C. You must have questions from all 3 prompt categories. See below for example.

**Step 4: Write a Letter:** Your job is to write a letter to Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka about what this book has taught you about the value of education. First, explain what this book has taught you about the need and value of education. Why shouldn't we take this privilege for granted? Has education been important to you? Is education now a priority for you after reading this book? What has learning about Caitlin and Martin's experiences taught you about taking your own education seriously? Answer the reflection question in thoughtful, complete sentences. Your response should be written in paragraph form.

## Questions to ask yourself when looking for quotes:

### Prompt A:

- How do people demonstrate strengths and weaknesses? Look for examples of each character's strengths or weaknesses.
- How do these strengths or weaknesses affect the individuals in the text? Think about what happens to the individuals, how their lives change, what becomes of them, etc...
- What are some examples of when strengths and weaknesses lead individuals to grow and learn something new?
- What does this text say regarding weaknesses, strengths, and ultimate success?

### Prompt B:

- What are the main ideas presented in this text?
- What do you think is the main message of this text?
- What quotes do you think provide wisdom for the reader?
- What quotes do you think teach a moral lesson?

**Prompt C:**

- What are the main conflicts within the book (human vs. human, human vs. nature, human vs. society, etc...)?
- How are these conflicts resolved? If they remain unresolved, speculate as to why the author chooses to do so..
- What point(s) are made in the novel through the conflict?

**Quote Journal Format Example**

**Title of Book:** *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* **Author:** Ishmael Bea

<b>Page #</b>	<b>Quotes</b> (write down the quote itself and who said it)	<b>Notes:</b> How does this quote help you answer prompt A, B, or C?
46	"I became frustrated with living in fear. I felt as if I was always waiting for death to come to me, so I decided to go somewhere where at least there was some peace."- Narrator	C- At this moment, the reader is faced with fear- a constant and intense fear that is the product of the story's primary conflict- the intense war and his fear of the rebels. This is definitely a human vs. society conflict that has yet to be resolved.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE LEVEL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading Quote Journal Format**

**Title of Book:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>BEGINNING OF THE BOOK (pages 1-96)</b>		
<b>Page #</b>	<b>Quotes</b> (write down the quote itself and who said it)	<b>Notes:</b> How does this quote help you answer prompt A, B, or C?



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## MIDDLE OF THE BOOK (pages 96-192)



## END OF THE BOOK (pages 192-288)


**Step 5:** Write a Letter Assignment: Your job is to write a letter to Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka about what this book has taught you about the value of education, and also how you plan to take full advantage of all the educational and extracurricular opportunities Bristol-Plymouth has to offer. First, explain what this book has taught you about the need and value of education. Why shouldn't we take this privilege for granted? Has education been important to you? Is education now a priority for you after reading this book? What has learning about Caitlin and Martin's experiences taught you about taking your own education seriously? **Your response needs to be in paragraph format and address the authors in a letter format.**

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## 2. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

How do I get this novel?

**Half Price Books:** <http://www.hpb.com>

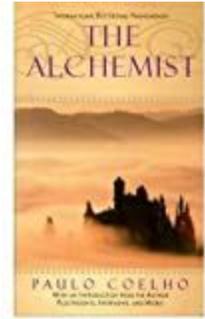
**Amazon:** <https://www.amazon.com> (available on Kindle)

**Barnes and Noble:** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/> (available on Nook)

**Public Library:** Students may also borrow the book through the public library.

**Online PDF:** There are free PDF's of the book online.

Click here: [\(PDF\) Paulo Coelho - The Alchemist.PDF | abhijeet soni](#)



**Also**, read, **answer** the attached questions, and be prepared for a Socratic Seminar and assessment regarding *The Alchemist*, which **we will study second**.

In order to come to class in August ready to discuss and write about what you have read, consider:

- marking the text if the book is your own to record comments and questions;
- using Post-it Notes if you borrow the book and saving these notes for future reference;

Honors and AP students are the types who read for pleasure outside of school. Look at this as having the opportunity to read a couple of famous books over a few glorious summer months. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE!** Read a little bit each day giving the books the emotional and intellectual attention and energy they will require. You will find the effort worthwhile. I look forward to meeting you in the fall and working with you during the upcoming academic year. Have a great summer!

### ***The Alchemist* Discussion Questions**

Personal

1. What are your thoughts about intuition/gut feeling/being “plugged in”/etc.?
2. Share an experience you’ve had or have heard of regarding intuition.
3. What are your thoughts about the concept of fate?
4. What’s your biggest dream?
5. What value do you place on dreams? Do dreams have significance to you? How do you assign value to your dreams (if applicable)?
6. How do you define love?
7. Do you believe there is someone out there just for you?
8. What is the power of love?



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9. What clichés about love are you aware of? Which ones do believe?
10. Do you believe in omens? Do they guide you in any way?
11. What are your thoughts about “beginner’s luck”?
12. What do you treasure most in the world?
13. What implications do your personal actions have on you? Your family? Your community? The world?

## Book

1. According to the king of Salem, what is the world’s greatest lie? Agree/disagree?
2. How does beginner’s luck play into Santiago’s journey?
3. What do the characters in the novel have to say about love? Agree/disagree?
4. What significance does the book place on omens? Give examples. How does Santiago use omens on his journey?
5. How does the novel define treasure? Accept or reject this definition?

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### 3. YOUR CHOICE

Respond thoughtfully and in complete thoughts and sentences.

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_  
Year Published \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn from reading this book?

What are three (3) significant quotes from your book? Why is it significant?

What is a powerful theme that you took away from this book?

Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not?