PART I | Before Reading

A. RESEARCH | Using reputable sources, research the following concepts and allusions.

Write a short description of each (7-9 sentences). In your description, be sure to “quote” at least one detail from your source(s) and CITE YOUR SOURCE using MLA style: Purdue University's Style Handbook | MLA Style

1. Alchemy
2. Parable
3. Melchizedek

B. PERSONAL OPINION | Which do you think is more important, the journey or the destination? Explain why in at least 5 sentences.

PART II | During Reading Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Pgs. 3-20

1. Why/How have the sheep forgotten to rely on their own instincts?

2. What makes “life interesting”? Explain what lesson/moral is found here.

3. What is the “World’s Greatest Lie”?

4. What is unusual about the King of Salem, Melchizedek?

Pgs. 21-30

5. What is a “Personal Legend”?
6. How does the “Soul of the World” work?

7. What is Melchizedek’s purpose in telling the parable about the miner?

Pgs. 33-61

8. What does Santiago notice about the candy seller? [anything significant here?]

9. How do Santiago’s thoughts and perceptions about himself and the world begin to change on pages 42-44?

10. What lessons does Santiago learn by working at the crystal shop? [make sure you also examine pg 58]

Pgs. 62-79

11. How does the Englishman connect the relationship between the caravan and the desert?

Pgs. 88-104

12. The oasis is described in great detail. How do its lushness, laughter and color reflect what Santiago finds there? Use quotes to support your answer.

13. Why does Fatima accept that her new husband wanders the desert, as she explains on page 98?

PART III | AFTER READING

Answer the following questions in complete Jwj paragraphs. You should create a Jwj Plan for each one and then write a 7-9 sentence paragraph.

1. During their trek through the desert the alchemist tells Santiago, “There is only one way to learn. It’s through action. Everything you need to know you have learned through your journey” (p. 125).

2. Why do you think the alchemist tells Santiago the story about the man’s dream about the two sons (the poet and the soldier)?

3. Earlier in the novel, the alchemist told Santiago “when you possess great treasures within you, and try to tell others of them, seldom are you believed.”

At the end of the novel, how did this simple lesson change Santiago’s life? Consider how it led him back to the treasure he was looking for.

4. Choose one piece of wisdom (a line(s) from the novel) and explain how that idea connects to at least 2 other incidents in the novel.
Dear Santiago,

Do the grades we make in school really matter? My mom keeps annoying me about not making high enough grades. I know I’m smart. I know I’m capable, but some of the work just seems pointless. Who cares if I get a C every now and then? I figure I’ll start working harder next year, or maybe in college. It’ll probably matter more then. What do you think?

~C’s are EZ