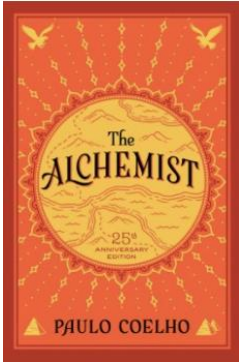


Briarcliff High School

9th Grade English – 2023



All incoming 9th Grade English students are expected to read *The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho

ABOUT MAGIC REALISM:

Magic Realism is a literary movement associated with a style of writing or technique that incorporates magical or supernatural events into realistic narrative without questioning the improbability of these events. This fusion of fact and fantasy is meant to question the nature of reality...magic realist works present the reader with a perception of the world where nothing is taken for granted and where anything can happen.

Abridged from <https://go.gale.com/>

THE ALCHEMIST SUMMARY:

Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, *The Alchemist* has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations.

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different and far more satisfying than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity, and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

Assignment:

You will be required to annotate *The Alchemist* as you read it. Below are instructions/tips for annotating text. When we return to school in September your annotations will be checked, and we will be working with your annotations and discussing the book and its themes, so be sure to be thorough in your annotations so you can participate fully.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

Annotating A Text

Annotation is a key component of close reading. Since we will annotate/take notes all year, you need to develop a system that works for you (within the following guidelines). If you have your own copy, you can annotate right in the book. Otherwise use sticky notes or a separate piece of paper: handwritten is preferable.

Use any combination of the following:

- ❖ Make brief comments about the plot and development.
- ❖ Circle or put boxes, triangles, or clouds around words or phrases that stand out to you.
- ❖ Use abbreviations or symbols - brackets, stars, exclamation points, question marks, numbers, etc.
- ❖ Connect words, phrases, ideas, circles, boxes, etc. with lines or arrows.
- ❖ *Underline/highlight – jot thoughts down so you can recall why you highlighted an excerpt.

Close Reading:

What should you annotate? Again, the possibilities are limitless. Keep in mind the reasons we annotate. Your annotations must include comments. ***We want to see evidence of thinking.***

- ❖ Have a conversation with the text - Talk back to it. Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ❖ Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? the result?
- ❖ Comment on something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates, etc.
- ❖ Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ❖ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ❖ Make predictions.
- ❖ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ❖ Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand like vocabulary words.
- ❖ Note how the author uses language. What is significant?

Effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)	Setting / Historical context – When does the book take place? How does it affect the story?
Point of view / effect	Tone—how characters express themselves
References (historical, pop-culture)	Imagery – how does the author evoke the 5 senses (touch, sight, sound, smell, taste)
Irony – contrasts, contradictions	Themes – what lessons or ideas are expressed?
Mood—how author makes reader feel	Foreshadowing – make predictions as you read

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. **Yes, it does! That's the point.** If annotating as you read is challenging for you, read a chapter and then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

*****Bring all of your annotated texts to class the first day.**

Approach the book with an open mind. Let the text inspire you and stretch your imagination. If you have questions before school starts, feel free to e-mail your teacher then as well. We look forward to seeing you in September!

If you're looking for some other good books to read this summer, check out the list below!

Suggested Summer Reading

9th & 10th Grade

Here is a list of suggested books for incoming 9th & 10th grade students. None of these books are required – they're just great books to read and enjoy!

POPULAR TITLES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Acevedo, Elizabeth | <i>The Poet X:</i> Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. Printz Award Winner 2019 |
| Adams, Douglas | <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:</i> Seconds before Earth is destroyed to make room for a galactic freeway, a young man is rescued by an alien friend who whisks him away on a space-traveling adventure. Sequels: <u>Restaurant at the End of the Universe</u>, <u>Life, The Universe and Everything</u>, <u>So Long and Thanks for All the Fish</u> and <u>Mostly Harmless</u> |
| Adams, Richard | <i>Watership Down:</i> Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival follows a band of very special rabbits on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society. |
| Adeyemi, Tomi | <i>Children of Blood and Bone:</i> They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zelie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Now Zelie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. She must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. But the greatest danger may be Zelie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy. Sequel: <i>Children of Virtue and Vengeance</i> |
| Ahmed, Samira | <i>Internment:</i> A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence. |
| Albergotti, Reed & O'Connell, Vanessa | <i>Wheelmen: The Tour de France and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever:</i> The sensational New York Times bestselling in-depth look at Lance Armstrong's doping scandal, the phenomenal |

business success built on the back of fraud, and the greatest conspiracy in the history of sports.

Austen, Jane

Pride and Prejudice: Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

Bell, David

She's Gone: Accused of murdering his girlfriend, who disappeared after they were in an accident, Hunter Gifford races against time to clear his name, putting his freedom, family and life at risk, as his former best friend makes a true-crime documentary condemning him.

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451: Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

Brashares, Ann

The Here and Now: Seventeen-year-old Prenna, an immigrant who moved to New York when she was twelve, came from another time and she and the other travelers must follow strict rules to avoid destroying the new life they have worked so hard to get, as well as the one person Prenna is desperate to protect. Follow the rules. Remember what happened. Never fall in love.

Brown, Don

In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years After the 9/11 Attacks: A graphic novel chronicling the immediate aftermath and rippling effects of one of the most impactful days in modern history: September 11, 2001. The consequences of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, both political and personal, were vast, and continue to reverberate today. Profound, troubling, and deeply moving, this book bears witness to our history & and the ways it shapes our future.

Buck, Pearl S.

The Good Earth: The poignant tale of a Chinese farmer and his family in old agrarian China. The humble Wang Lung glories in the soil he works, nurturing the land as it nurtures him and his family. Hard times come upon Wang Lung and his family when flood and drought force them to seek work in the city. The working people riot, breaking into the homes of the rich and forcing them to flee. When Wang Lung shows mercy to one noble and is rewarded, he begins to rise in the world.

Burcaw, Shane	<i>Laughing at My Nightmare:</i> With acerbic wit and a hilarious voice, Shane Burcaw describes the challenges he faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Shane handles his situation with humor and a "you-only-live-once" perspective on life. While he does talk about everyday issues that are relatable to teens, he also offers an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life-threatening disease.
Calame, Dan	<i>Dan vs. Nature:</i> Shy and scrawny Dan Weekes spends his time creating graphic novels inspired by his dream girl and looking out for his mom as she dates every man in the state of California. Then his mom drops a bomb: she and Hank, are engaged, and she's sending her "two favorite men" on a survivalist camping trip to "bond." Determined to trick Hank into showing his true — flawed — colors on the trip, Dan and his nerdy germaphobe best friend, Charlie, prepare a series of increasingly gross and embarrassing pranks.
Caletti, Deb	<i>A Heart in a Body in the World:</i> When everything's been taken from you, what else is there to do but run? That's what Annabelle does-- from Seattle to Washington, DC. She's not ready to think about the <i>why</i> , just the <i>how</i> --muscles burning, heart pumping, feet pounding the earth. But no matter how hard she tries, she can't outrun the tragedy from the past year, or the person-- <i>The Taker</i> --that haunts her. Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle becomes a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to the trauma from her past. Printz Honor Book, 2019
Chee, Traci	<i>We Are Not Free:</i> For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, his two brothers, his friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare: attacked, spat on, and abused with no way to retaliate--and now things are about to get worse, their lives forever changed by the mass incarcerations in the relocation camps.
Cherrix, Amy E.	<i>In the Shadow of the Moon: America, Russia, and the Hidden History of the Space Race:</i> You've heard of the space race, but do you know the whole story? The most ambitious race humankind has ever undertaken was masterminded in the shadows by two engineers on opposite sides of the Cold War--Wernher von Braun, a former Nazi officer living in the US, and Sergei Korolev, a Russian rocket designer once jailed for crimes against his country--and your textbooks probably never told you.
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage:</i> During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.
Deen, Nathasha	<i>In the Key of Nira Ghani:</i> Nira Ghani has always dreamed of becoming a musician. Her Guyanese parents, however, have big plans for her to

become a scientist or doctor. Nira's grandmother and her best friend, Emily, are the only people who seem to truly understand her desire to establish an identity outside of the one imposed on Nira by her parents. When auditions for jazz band are announced, Nira realizes it's now or never to convince her parents that she deserves a chance to pursue her passion.

Deuker, Carl

Golden Arm: Lazarus Weathers has always been shy, and his issue with stuttering hasn't helped. Laz finds baseball helps him escape from the world of poverty and drugs. When he gets a chance to pitch for a team across town, he has a chance to get drafted by the major leagues. But playing for the other team means leaving behind his family, including his younger brother. Now Laz will have to choose between being the star pitcher he always dreamed of becoming and the team player his family needs.

Elston, Ashley

This is Our Story: No one knows what happened that morning at River Point. Five boys went hunting. Four came back. The boys won't say who fired the shot that killed their friend, Grant; the evidence shows it could have been any one of them. Kate, an intern at the DA's office and the Assistant DA must solve the crime to get justice for Grant.

Foley, Jessie Ann

The Carnival at Bray: In 1993, Maggie is dismayed to leave Chicago and her beloved Uncle Kevin behind when she moves to a small Irish town. Yet it is within this evocative setting that Foley unwinds Maggie's exceptional coming-of-age tale, where Maggie discovers music and forgiveness as antidotes for grief. **Printz Honor Book, 2015**

Gaddy, K.R.

Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers who Resisted the Nazis: The Edelweiss Pirates were a loosely organized group of working-class young people in the Rhine Valley of Germany. They faced off with Nazis during the Third Reich and suffered consequences for their resistance during and after World War II.

Golding, William

Lord of the Flies: After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.

Greenfield, Amy

The Woman All Spies Fear: Code Breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman and Her Hidden Life: An inspiring true story. Elizebeth Smith Friedman had a rare talent for spotting patterns and solving puzzles. These skills led her to become one of the top cryptanalysts in America playing a major role decoding messages during both World War I and World War II and also for the Coast Guard's war against smugglers. Elizebeth and her husband, William, became the top code-breaking team in the US, and she did it all at a time when most women weren't welcome in the workforce.

Grogan, John

Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog: A tender story of his family's love for their yellow Labrador retriever, Marley,

chronicling how he grew from a mischievous puppy into a nearly impossible adult that no amount of obedience school training could correct.

Hemingway, Ernest

The Old Man and the Sea: The story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Using the simple, powerful language of a fable, Hemingway takes the timeless themes of courage in the face of defeat and personal triumph won from loss and transforms them into a magnificent twentieth-century classic.

Henry, April

Two Truths and a Lie: When a troupe of theater students get stranded in a creepy old motel during a blizzard, they play a foreboding game of truth and lies that leads to real danger when a murderer is discovered in their midst.

King, Stephen

The Shining: Jack Torrance's new job at the Overlook Hotel is the perfect chance for a fresh start. As the off-season caretaker at the old hotel, he'll have plenty of time to spend reconnecting with his family and working on his writing. But as the harsh winter weather sets in, the idyllic location feels ever more remote . . . and more sinister. And the only one to notice the strange and terrible forces gathering around the Overlook is Danny Torrance, Jack's uniquely gifted five-year-old.

Konigsberg, Bill

Openly Straight: Tired of being known as "the gay kid", Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school--but trying to deny his identity has both complications and unexpected consequences.

Krosoczka, Jarrett

Hey, Kiddo: In his graphic novel style memoir, Jarrett Krosoczka describes how in kindergarten his teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and - Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery. Jarrett lives with his loud, opinionated, but loving grandparents. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Jack, Gordon

The Boomerang Effect: Because of a string of pranks, Lawrence Barry is one step away from reform school unless he agrees to mentor a Norwegian exchange student with Spock-like intelligence but no social skills. During Homecoming week, someone dressed as the school's Viking mascot starts destroying the homecoming floats, and Lawrence becomes suspect #1. As the situation spirals out of control, he realizes that Spencer may be his best friend -- the one he never knew he needed.

Johnson, Lea

You Should See Me in a Crown: Liz Lighty has always done her best to avoid the spotlight in her small, prom-obsessed midwestern high school, especially since her mother died; she has concentrated on her grades and musical ability hoping it will win her a scholarship to elite

Pennington College. But when that scholarship falls through she is forced to turn to her school's scholarship for prom king and queen, which plunges her into the gauntlet of social media and leads her to discoveries about her own identity and the value of true friendships.

Larbalestier, Justine

My Sister Rosa: When his father's business takes the family to New York City, a seventeen-year-old Australian boy must balance his desire to protect his ten-year-old sister, a diagnosable psychopath, from the world with the desperate need to protect the world from her.

Levithan, David

Every Day: Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. **Sequel: *Another Day, Some Day***

Levitt, Stephen D.

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything: The authors explore the economics of real-world issues often viewed as insignificant, such as the extent to which the Roe v. Wade decision affected violent crime, and examine hidden incentives behind all sorts of human behavior.

Le Guin, Ursula

A Wizard of Earthsea: Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

McManus, Karen

You'll Be the Death of Me: Ivy, Mateo, and Cal used to be close. Now all they have in common is Carlton High and the beginning of a very bad day. So when the three unexpectedly run into each other, they decide to avoid their problems by ditching school together. They've barely left the parking lot before they run out of things to say. . . until they spot a classmate skipping school--and follow him to the scene of his own murder. Their day goes from bad to deadly. It turns out the three still have some things in common...like a connection to the dead kid. Could it be that their chance reconnection wasn't by chance after all?

Morton, Kate

The Lake House: 16-year-old Alice Edevane's brother Theo disappears one night during a party with hundreds of guests at her family's English estate. Years later, Alice still harbors a suspicion as to how her brother disappeared. Meanwhile, London detective Sadie Sparrow stumbles upon the old Edevane estate, now abandoned. With her curiosity sparked, a chain of events brings her and Alice together and reveals the shocking truth behind the mystery.

Murphy, Julie

Puddin': Companion to book & Netflix movie *Dumplin'*: Millie Michalchuk has gone to fat camp every year since she was a little girl. Not this year. She has plans to chase her secret dream of being a newscaster--and to kiss the boy she's crushing on. Callie Reyes is the pretty girl who is

next in line for dance team captain and has the popular boyfriend. But when it comes to other girls, she's more frenemy than friend. When the girls come together over the course of a semester, they surprise everyone by realizing that they might have more in common than they imagined.

O'Connor, Ian

Coach K: The Rise and Reign of Mike Krzyzewsky: A biography of well-known college basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski, covering his early years in Chicago and West Point, his rise to coaching stardom, specific games, interviews, and more.

Poe, Edgar Allan

The Collected Tales of Edgar Allan Poe: Edgar Allan Poe was one of the most original writers in the history of American letters, a genius who was tragically misunderstood in his lifetime. This edition includes his most well-known works--"The Raven," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "Annabel Lee," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"--as well as less-familiar stories, poems, and essays.

Reynolds, Jason

When I was the Greatest: Ali lives in Bed-Stuy, a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, but he and his sister, Jazz, and their neighbors, Needles and Noodles, stay out of trouble until they go to the wrong party, where one gets badly hurt and another leaves with a target on his back.

Rowell, Rainbow

Eleanor and Park: Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulled you under. **Printz Honor Book, 2014**

Sepetys, Ruta

Fountains of Silence: Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them Daniel Matheson who is hoping to connect with the country through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family is still suffering from the lingering effects of the Spanish Civil War. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger.

Searle, Sarah Winifred

The Greatest Thing: It's the first day of sophomore year and Winifred's two best (and only) friends have transferred to a private school & she must navigate high school on her own. In art class, she meets two offbeat students, Oscar and April. The three bond through clandestine sleepovers, thrift store shopping, and zine publishing. Winifred is finally breaking out of her shell, but there's one secret she can't bear to admit to April and Oscar, or even to herself--and this lie is threatening to destroy her newfound friendships. *Graphic Novel*

Shusterman, Neal

Dry: The drought--or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it--has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts:

don't water the lawn, don't fill your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors turned against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don't return and her life and her brother's is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive.

Stevenson, Bryan

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship--and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Thomas, Angie

On the Come Up: Sixteen-year-old Bri hopes to become a great rapper, and after her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, must decide whether to sell out or face eviction with her widowed mother.

Vermette, Katherena

A Girl Called Echo Vol. 1: Echo Desjardins, a 13-year-old Metis girl adjusting to a new home and school, is struggling with loneliness while separated from her mother. Then an ordinary day in Mr. Bee's history class turns extraordinary, and Echo's life will never be the same. Echo finds herself transported to another time and place--a bison hunt on the Saskatchewan prairie--and back again to the present. She visits a Metis camp, travels the old fur-trade routes, and experiences the perilous and bygone era of the Pemmican Wars. **Graphic novel**

Volponi, Paul

The Final Four: Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

Whitman, Walt

Leaves of Grass: Abraham Lincoln read it with approval, but Emily Dickinson described its bold language and themes as "disgraceful." Leaves of Grass inaugurated a new voice and style into American letters and gave expression to an optimistic, bombastic vision that took the nation as its subject.

Yang, Gene Luen

Dragon Hoops: Gene Luen Yang understands stories -- comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season and each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championship. Once Gene meets these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. **Printz Honor, 2021**

Yoon, Nicola

Everything, Everything: The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more.

Zoboi, Ibi

America Street: Fabiola Toussaint, a young Haitian immigrant to the United States, must navigate her life, school and relationships, while dealing with her loud cousins after her mother is detained by the United States immigration department.

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief: Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.