*The Alchemist* Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Study Questions – Book Portfolio**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions. You MUST answer in complete sentences.

**(pg. 1-10)**

1. Who is Santiago? How is he introduced at the beginning of the story?

2. What is strange or unusual about Santiago’s dream?

3. What do Santiago’s parents plan for him, and how does he change that plan?

**(pg. 11-33)**

4. Santiago stops in Tarifa to consult with an old woman about his recurring dream. What does she tell him and what does she charge?

5. Santiago meets an old man in the village. Who is he and how does the old man explain the concept of Personal Legends to Santiago? Why does the old man believe that few people ever really attain their Personal Legends?

6. Why does the old man tell Santiago to follow “omens?”

7. The old man tells Santiago a story that concludes with the secret of happiness. According to the old man, what is the secret of happiness?

**(pg. 33-47)**

8. When Santiago decides to leave his home country of Spain in order to follow his personal legend, where does and how is it different in regards to food/drink, religion, customs, etc.?

9. What comfort do the black and white stones provide to Santiago?

10. Describe the first interaction between Santiago and the crystal merchant.

**(pg. 51-79)**

11. What lesson does Santiago teach the crystal merchant (page 64)?

12.Who is the Englishman and what do we learn about him? What motivates the Englishman to befriend Santiago? On page 71, the leader of the caravan provides us with a metaphor about the desert. What comparison is being made here? According to the Englishman, what is the Soul of the World?

What is an alchemist?

**(pg. 79-104)**

13. Explain the Elixir of Life, the Master Work, and the Philosopher’s Stone (page 80-81).

14. Why was the alchemist watching people as they entered the oasis from the caravan?

15. Describe the Oasis.

16. What is the language of the world and how does Santiago learn it?

17.What agreement do Fatima and Santiago come to?

**(pg. 104-123)**

18. Santiago sees two hawks as an omen. What do they signify? What happens when Santiago visits the tribal chieftains to tell them about his vision?

19. What test do the chieftains outline for Santiago?

20. Describe Santiago’s first interaction with the Alchemist.

21. What was Santiago’s reward for saving the oasis?

**(pg. 123-143)**

22. What advice does the alchemist give about listening to one’s heart?

23. The author includes many examples of foreshadowing here. How do we know that Santiago awaits more trouble on his quest?

24. What did the Arabs find when they searched the alchemist? Why did they allow the alchemist to keep the treasure?

25. The alchemist tells Santiago, “When you possess great treasures within you, and you try to tell others of them, seldom are you believed” (page 134). Interpret this quote. How can you relate this quote back to your own life? (Hint: Think about the “simple, yet valuable” objects that we brought to English class!)

26. What happens when the alchemist and the boy are both taken into the military camp?

27. Why would the alchemist set up such a “test” for Santiago?

28. Who is at risk of death here? Why?

**(pg. 143-167)**

29. As Santiago is attempting to turn himself into the wild, who does he hold conversations with?

30. Two people were smiling after Santiago turned himself into the wind. Who were they and why was each smiling?

31. How did the alchemist distribute the gold? Why did he think Santiago might need the gold later?

32. What do you think the point of the alchemist’s story about the sons of Roman emperor Tiberius?

33. What advice did the boy’s heart give him as he approached the Pyramids? What did he do when he saw the Pyramids?

34. Who approaches Santiago as he digs in the sand, and what did they do?

35. What story does one attacker tell Santiago?

36. After the attackers leave, Santiago gets up from the sand and begins to laugh. Why?

37. *The Alchemist* presents us with a lot of important lessons learned by Santiago throughout his journey. What ONE lesson do you think was the most important for him to learn? Why?