**The Alchemist
by Paulo Coelho**

**About the Book**

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.

**About the Author**:

The Brazilian author PAULO COELHO is considered one of the most influential authors of our times. His books have sold more than 165 million copies worldwide, have been released in 170 countries and been translated into 80 languages.

The man behind the author likes to write and practices Kyudo - a meditative archery. He loves reading, walking, football and computers. In that sense, he has always maintained a close contact with his readers but now, and thanks to the new media, he has established an incredible feedback with them. Paulo was the second most influential celebrity on Twitter in 2010 according to Forbes and he is the writer with the highest number of followers in the social media.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* Eat Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
* Life of Pi by Yann Martel
* The Book of the Dun Cow by Walter Wangerin Jr.
* The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff
* Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert M. Pirsig

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why is The Alchemist divided into two parts? What lesson or point does each part make?
2. In The Alchemist, Santiago is going after a literal treasure: buried gold. Why do you think that Coelho chose such a concrete, obvious treasure instead of something more abstract?
3. Many of the wise people that Santiago meets are really old. What does this tell you about wisdom in The Alchemist? What do young people have to offer?
4. Personal Legend. The Language of the World. The Soul of the World. What is with these capitalized concepts that are repeated throughout the book?
5. What is the role of nature in The Alchemist?
6. Santiago’s treasure is buried gold. Fatima’s treasure is Santiago himself. Is that fair? Do you think that there might be some unfair gender bias at work there? How?
7. There has been talk of making *The Alchemist* into a movie for years and years. If you were the director, who would you cast as Santiago, Fatima, the old king, and the alchemist?
8. What do you think happened to the girl that Santiago had a crush on back in Spain?
9. Do you think it’s a good idea to use *The Alchemist* as a self-help book, applying its lessons to your life? Why or why not?