

Texoma Christian School
SPAN III—HONORS, 2019-2020
Summer Reading Assignment
Sr. Hammock

Why Read Classic Spanish Books?

Culture. Reading classic Spanish books will help you understand culture more. After all, the important works in any language play a role in related cultures. How many times have you heard Shakespeare references? Because of literature's role in culture, it's helpful to read important works in Spanish, too. Learning culture is an important part of learning language, so reading pinnacle works is a step in the right direction.

Language. Reading in Spanish is also helpful to improve your language skills. With the context of a memorable story, you'll learn a lot of vocabulary, and seeing sentence structures and grammar used within sentences and paragraphs will help you internalize the rules. Plus, the more you read, the easier it will get.

Enjoyment. Reading a good book is always enjoyable. The same can be said for these classic Spanish books. They became classics for a reason.

Your Summer Assignment

1. Purchase and read "*El Alquimista*" (The Alchemist)
2. Purchase a notebook/journal
 - a. For each chapter of the book:
 - i. Write a 3-5 sentence summary in Spanish
 - ii. Write 15 Spanish words you do not know
3. Be prepared the second day of school (August 15th) to take a vocabulary quiz of the book
4. Be prepared the third day of school (August 19th) to take a test about the book
5. You will receive one test grade and one quiz grade for your notebook/journal entries.

Short Summary of *El Alquimista*

Originally published in Portuguese (which is very similar to Spanish) in 1988, this novel features a shepherd from the Spanish region of Andalusia who seeks treasure in Egypt. A gypsy tells him there is treasure in the pyramids. This is his “Personal Legend” or life goal. Along the way, he meets others who help him try to achieve his destiny and learns many lessons.

Its sparse prose makes it easy for language learners to follow. “El alquimista” is a modern classic largely for its (often profound) inspirational message on following your dreams and overcoming depression. We will take moments throughout the book to learn about different Spanish grammar and discuss the themes in the book from a Christian, biblical worldview.

*****Spanish III is an Honors level course requiring additional rigor. Failure to complete the entire assignment will result in being placed in PGD and on the Distinguished Graduation Plan rather than the Honors Plan.**

If you have any questions, talk with El Maestro before the summer break or email El Maestro @

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¡Disfruta el libro!

y

¡Que tengan buenas vacaciones de verano!