This summer you are required to read the following works. If you have read them before, they should still be read a second time over the summer:

1. Preliminary Notes about *The Alchemist* (attached)--read before the novel
2. *The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho (novel)--try to use the Alan R. Clarke translation
3. *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster

Library issued versions of the longer summer titles are fine, but you may prefer to buy a new or used copy because you will need these pieces throughout the first quarter of school (and during the school year for certain assignments). Note: Since this is a college level course, some portions of selected literature could contain mature or controversial content. I try to handle such portions carefully; please e-mail me <mowen@scsk12.org> with any concerns you or your parents might have with the above works.

When school starts, you will be tested on these pieces; the summer writing assignments will be graded; and you will be required to complete a presentation on one of the two works. If you do not do the summer work, therefore, your first quarter average will be quite low.

**The Writing Assignments**

Note: These assignments should be completed WITHOUT using SparkNotes, Google, Cliffs Notes, books, OTHER PEOPLE, etc.!!! If you copy ideas without giving credit, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

**A Passage to India**

Most novels achieve structural unity through at least one of five approaches. Forster’s genius is that he manages to structure *A Passage to India* using all five approaches in some way. Use your own paper (or computer) to compose answers to the following questions. Please label them as I do below, and please keep them ordered as I do here.

**Approach One--Structural Divisions**--Comment on the significance of the three parts of the novel. Be sure to tie your ideas into what you believe to be the predominant theme of the work.

**Approach Two--Polarization of Characters**--Look at the main characters of the novel and try to see how they are polarized or divided. Group them by your idea of their polarization and comment on the significance of the division to an overall theme of the novel.

**Approach Three--Repetition of Patterns or Elements**--Identify at least three (but no more than five) repeated patterns or elements that you notice in the novel. List them and write a sentence or two about the significance of each.

**Approach Four--Resolution of Conflict**--Explain what you think the resolution of the novel means to convey about the overarching theme of this novel. (Dig deep! Do not stick just to the obvious.)
Approach Five--Point of View--What is the point of view of this novel, and why do you think Forster chose that approach? (How and why is the point of view significant to the main theme of the novel?)

Note: A brief paragraph or two per approach should suffice. Being concise is a skill some of you may have to learn when completing this assignment. Once again, this is not intended to be a formal essay; it should nonetheless be organized and focused. NO MORE THAN 2 TYPED, double spaced pages/2-3 handwritten pages. Be sure to use textual evidence in your answers.

The Alchemist

1. You should take the IB Learner Profile Characteristic listed below and keep track of any quotations in The Alchemist that you believe relate in some way to that characteristic. Pay special attention to any characters that you believe either display this characteristic or fail to display this characteristic and the effect that has on the character.

Then, on a piece of paper, write or type your characteristic at the top of the paper. Then write your OWN definition of that characteristic (3-5 sentences). Below that, copy the quotations you have found which relate to the characteristic and put a brief phrase or two that connects each quotation to the characteristic. Be sure to include the page numbers of the quotations.

YOUR IB LEARNER PROFILE CHARACTERISTIC:

2. Choose ONE of the topics on the attached sheet labeled “Written Assignment for The Alchemist.” Then create a TYPED, double-spaced response to the topic that is NO LONGER THAN 2 PAGES. You MAY and SHOULD use I/ME/MY/MINE to write this piece. It is PERSONAL writing!

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Have an enjoyable summer, but do put time and effort into these assignments. If you do, your life will be much more pleasant this fall, and your grades will be higher. I will grade your summer work for content, grammar and mechanics, and following directions. I look forward to the coming year with you. See me before the summer or e-mail me if you have any questions regarding this work.

Sincerely,

Melissa M. Owen, IB/HL Year 1 English Teacher
<mowen@scsk12.org>

*Bolton web site: <http://www.scsk12.org/SCS/high/Bolton/index.html>*
*Mrs. Owen web site (forms available below the Bolton picture on my main page, too): <http://boltonhs.scsk12.org/~mowen/Mrs._Owen_Web_Site/Main_Page.html>*