Questions for *The Alchemist*

*The Alchemist*

1. What affect does the setting of the story have on the effectiveness of the tale (or does it)?

2. How does life in Spain and Africa play a key role in the main conflict? Would the story be different if it occurred in your country?

3. Because of the allusions in the story to the *Bible* and the *Koran*, how much discussion regarding religion is necessary for a better understanding of the story? (Common Core: have students research the religions and report to the class.)

4. What is the main conflict in *The Alchemist* and is it resolved?

5. Why did Coelho use the myth of Narcissus as a prologue to the story?

6. What age is most appropriate for reading *The Alchemist*? Why would a person’s age make a difference in interpreting this story?

7. Why did Coelho use Santiago, a poor shepherd boy, as the main character? What does this suggest, if anything, about a person’s class in relation to the theme of the story?

8. What is the purpose of having Fatima as a love interest in the story?