Mr. LoGalbo

World Literature

*The Alchemist* (Existentialism Unit)

As Santiago begins his personal legend, he encounters Melchizedek, the king of Salem. Melchizedek tells Santiago that when people are beginning their personal legends, they believe the “world’s greatest lie”:

“Everyone believes the world's greatest lie... that at a certain point in our lives, we lose control of what's happening to us, and our lives become controlled by fate. That's the world's greatest lie.”

Prompt: if this is the “world’s greatest lie”, what, in your own existential thinking, is the world’s greatest truth? Your objective is to assess the existential philosophies we have addressed in both of the novels analyzed in this unit (*The Stranger* and *The Alchemist*) and develop your own existential philosophy. What drives our purpose? Reflect on the discussions and journals from both texts and identify the “world’s greatest truth”. You need to connect your philosophy to one concept discussed from either of the two novels (one embedded quote required-part of the development of claim grade).

This assignment is worth 50 points. You will be assessed as follows:

 Thesis (world’s greatest truth): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

 Development of claim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

 Grammar/Conventions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

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