

**Directions:** As you read, answer the questions. Your responses aren't contingent on a certain amount of sentences. Instead, answer what is asked of you in complete sentences. If you don't fully respond, you don't fully receive credit—grammar, as always, matters. WRITE your responses on a separate sheet of paper. If you have questions, please email me.

1. The shepherd's family intended the boy to become a priest. He went against his family's wishes, and he opted to become a shepherd. Considering the sacrifices of his parents, did he do the right thing?
2. You are at a similar crossroads in life as you choose your future occupations. Will you listen to your family's input, or will you pursue your dreams? At the moment, what do you see as your future occupation? Why this particular career choice?
3. The shepherd read books often. What genre is he reading? Why that particular genre? If you had to guess the book he is reading, what is the title?
4. The shepherd details his dreams. He has this dream often. The story indicates that dreams are a possible reality. Do you believe your dreams are indicative of a reality? Do you have repeat dreams? If so, what happened in your dream? If you don't have repeat dreams, *detail* a dream you remember the most.
5. According to King Salem, the shepherd has discovered his "Personal Legend." Additionally, the king states that "Everyone, when they are young, knows what his or her personal legend is" (23). Do you believe in phenomena such as a "personal legend"? Why or why not? If you had to presume, what is your legend, or what would you dream for it to be?
6. Consider the shepherd's thoughts: "When each day is the same as the next, it's because people fail to recognize the good things that happen in the lives every day that the sun rises." Do you think there is some truth to his thought?
7. The shepherd boy quotes, "Making a decision is only the beginning of things" (68). Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Explain your answer.
8. Before beginning the journey, the caravan leader has everyone acknowledge and pray to the deity of his belief system (74). Why do you suppose it would be necessary for so many different belief systems to pray yet also recognize the beliefs of others on such a trip? What are your thoughts regarding the boy swearing to Jesus?
9. According to the boy, "each time he opened the book, he knew he would learn something important, he decided it was an unnecessary burden" (78). At this point, in attempting to complete summer reading, you might feel the same way. Do you think he would be more successful if he kept reading? Explain your answer.

10. The boy concludes that "everyone has his or her way of learning" (86). How will recognizing the differences in others' learning styles help the boy on his journey? How could the same approach help us all? Explain your answer.

11. On page 90, the boy states that God revealed his secrets easily to all creatures. He further emphasized that words and pictures could not convey those secrets. What scripture could provide support to the boy's theory?

12. From page 95, is love truly the only language understood by all? Why or why not? If not, what alternative language, if any, could be understood by all?

13. According to the stranger on page 114, "When something is written, there is no way to change it." Taking inspiration from the Bible, what obstacles can a written law create? From a modern perspective, what difficulties originate from changing the written word? Explain both of your answers.

14. From page 119, "It's not what enters men's mouths that's evil, it's what comes out men's mouths that is." Do you agree or disagree with the alchemist? Why or why not? Look in Psalms or Proverbs to find two verses that make a similar sentiment to the alchemist's point of view. Write out the verses.

15. According to Fatima, "No reason is needed for loving" (126). Do people need a reason to love? Why or why not?

16. The alchemist tells the boy that "there's only one way to learn, through action" (128). Do you believe it takes action to learn? Why or why not? Describe a time or situation in which it would be more appropriate to act than to learn.

17. On page 132, the alchemist makes a scriptural reference. What is the reference? The boy also responds that his heart is agitated at times. What is the boy implying about our hearts?

18. On page 137, the boy recalls a proverb: "The darkest hour of the night is just before dawn." From a figurative point of view, what does the statement mean?

Next, research the line; what is one notable fact you can provide about the proverb based on your research? (Cite your source)

19. On pages 162-163, why would the alchemist, as an Arab, share stories of Christ with the boy? Furthermore, the alchemist concludes that "no matter what he does, man plays a role in the world. And even he normally doesn't know it" (162). Do you agree with the alchemist's point of view? Why or why not? What

20. From the time in the desert, the boy learned that scarab beetles are symbolic of God. Research the symbolism of scarab beetles in Egypt. What does your research determine?

21. The boy is gifted Urim and Thummim. Using your Bible's index, research Urim and Thummim and determine their significance comparatively from the text and the Biblical references. For example, does the Biblical version of the stones relate to omens? Did you believe the stones would be significant to the story? Cite the verses and the book to complete your comparison.

22. What is the boy's place as a believer in God amongst many who believe in Allah? Does he represent himself as a believer in God? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

23. The novel frequently mentions a universal language? Is there a universal language? Why or why not?

**Note:** Most of our curriculum is from Bob Jones and represents a biblical point of view; however, some novel studies are outside of the BJU curriculum yet are still considered literary canon and are preparatory for college. Therefore, some novels contain language and world themes that are secular in content. Ideally, presenting the content from a biblical standpoint is the intention when reading such material.