

# Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - The Alchemist's Letter – Comprehension

## Questions

This is the beginning of a week-long unit of work based around a short animation called *The Alchemist's Letter*. Today, we are going to watch and analyse the clip. You will need some scrap paper to make notes on and access to a computer or phone to watch the clip. To answer these questions, you can print out these sheets and write on them, copy the questions and answers into your home learning book or write directly onto this sheet template using SeeSaw.

### Pre-Task – BEFORE WATCHING

What do alchemists do? Use a dictionary or online dictionary to help you to explain.

**Gist Task – Some questions to hook you into the story. Read the questions first, and jot them down on your scrap paper. Watch the clip all the way through, pausing to make notes if you need to. Write your answers below, referring to your notes.**

<https://www.literacyshed.com/the-almchemists-letter.html>

1, When is the story set? How do you know?

2, How is the man feeling?

3, What is the machine that has been left behind?

4, What happens to the machine in the end? Why do you think this is?

**Detailed Task – Some further questions to help you to analyse the story more closely. Read the questions and copy them onto your scrap paper. Watch the clip again, pausing as you need to, and make notes to help you answer the questions.**

<https://www.literacyshed.com/the-chemists-letter.html>

5, What are the alchemist's most precious memories?

6, What is the man's name?

7, Why do you think man's mother died alone?

8, Who is sitting under the tree with the pink leaves?

9, What do you think he is thinking before he throws the watch?

10, Why does he throw the watch away?

11, What is interesting about the way the last section of the letter is written? Which version written below is the correct one in your opinion, and how are the meanings of the two sentences different?

*"Now I understand what matters the most. Love. Your father Nicholas"* or *"Now I understand what matters the most. Love your father, Nicholas."*