

## What's Your Favorite Book?



Reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho had been at the back of my mind since seeing it listed in the BBC Big Read top 100 books while living in the UK during 2003.

### ***The Alchemist* is now my Favourite Book**

A simple yet effective tale about a Spanish shepherd boy who travels across the desert in search of his destiny, the book's premise is that you should follow your dream now, not defer it forever into the future and that you make your own luck by striking out to **achieve your dream not waiting for luck** to come to you.

One of the many memorable quotes from the book is:

**"There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure."**

Paulo Coelho's story is a short (163 pages) and simple one, an inspirational parable about the importance of pursuing one's dreams. Originally published in 1988 in the Brazilian author's native Portuguese, it has since been translated in close to 70 languages and has become one of the best-selling books in history. *The Alchemist* is a quick and enjoyable reminder for anyone who feels they have become distracted from pursuing their own Personal Legend.

The Alchemist is cleverly written for all ages to read, enjoy and benefit from. It is especially enjoyable and useful if you're at a confused point in your life as it provides a sense of hope. It is constructed as a combination of both an adventurous novel and a motivational tale made to inspire readers. The breath-taking journey Santiago experiences, is not entirely to entertain but to reveal a concealed message.

Overall *The Alchemist* itself is written in a brilliant manner which through Paulo's effective writing techniques, is able to capture readers and take them to another world where they experience Santiago's journey as if it were their own.

As a short novel, I think the book is wonderful. The journey contains aspects of motivation and inspires readers to a certain level.