[The Alchemist](http://www.reynoldston.com/?attachment_id=3073)- Paul Coelho

Our latest read was ‘The Alchemist’ by Paulo Coelho. The book first published in 1988 has sold 65 million copies and has been translated into 67 different languages—which is a record according to the Guinness Book of Records.

The Alchemist follows the journey of an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago; believing a recurring dream to be prophetic he decides to travel from his Spanish village to the pyramids in Egypt hoping to find hidden treasure. The tale records his interesting journey and the variety of people he meets on his way. In reality he is following his dream. The book’s main theme is about finding one’s destiny; some literary experts describe the book as a ‘self help guide’ to living one’s dream.

What did our critical readers assess the book? In all honesty we could not understand why this fable of Santiago’s fictional journey became such a widely read best seller; we were consoled that it was a short book with only 156 pages!!!