**Pre-assessment for *The Alchemist***

**Copy this to a Word Document so that you may type your answers on the chart and write your account on the second section. Submit to the appropriate assignment form on the weebly when you have finished.**

**Part One:** When we read, we consciously or unconsciously make connections to the characters and stories we read. Nowhere is this more apparent than in mythology, legends, fables, and Biblical stories. Stories like these have been around for centuries because people across time and cultures continue to connect to them. Below is a chart of some characters that you may know from stories you have heard or read. Write a brief description of how you might relate to the story.

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| **Character** | **What Happened?** | **Your Connection?** |
| Pandora | She was told to never open a box she was given. Curiosity got the better of her and she opened it and all the evils – pain, illness, death – flew out into the world. Whoops. |  |
| Phaeton | Son of the Greek god of the Sun, he desperately wanted to show off to his friends and so he made his father let him drive the sun by himself. He was too weak to hold it and he burned half the earth and died when he crashed |  |
| Cinderella | She worked all day for her evil stepmother and dreamed about something better. She got her wish when she married the handsome prince. Happily ever after….? |  |
| Adam and Eve | They were given free reign of the Garden of Eden, so long as they didn’t eat the apple of the Tree of Knowledge. They did. They got kicked out of the best place on earth. |  |
| Three Little Pigs | Moving out on their own, two of the piggies built their houses too quickly with lost-quality building materials and got eaten by the wolf. The third used bricks and survived to tell the tale |  |
| Odysseus | After fighting for 10 years in war, he spent another 10 years trying to get home to his beautiful wife and grown son only to find a bunch of guys living in his house uninvited. |  |
| Luke Skywalker | Hangs out for most of his life on a desert planet until he finally gets to travel and he learns about the Force, the evil empire and his bad dad. |  |

Part Two: Read the following story about Icarus.

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| Daedalus was a famous architect, inventor, and master craftsman. He created many objects that figure prominently in various myths. He had a son named Icarus, who at one point, was imprisoned with his father by the evil king Minos of Crete.  Daedalus decided that he and Icarus had to try to leave Crete and get away from Minos, before he brought them harm. However, Minos controlled the sea around Crete and there was no route of escape there. Daedalus realized that the only way out was by air.  To escape, Daedalus built wings for himself and Icarus, fashioned with feathers held together with wax. **Daedalus warned his son not to fly too close to the sun, as it would melt his wings, and not too close to the sea, as it would dampen them and make it hard to fly.**  They successfully flew from Crete, but Icarus grew exhilarated by the thrill of flying and began getting careless. Flying too close to the sun god Helios, the wax holding together his wings melted from the heat and he fell to his death, drowning in the sea.  \*\*\*  Moral: The flight of Icarus could be interpreted as a lesson in the value of moderation. The danger in flying "too high" (i.e. melting of the wax wings) or in flying "too low" (i.e. weighting down the wings by sea-water spray) were suggestions for one to respect one's limits and to act accordingly |

Now,write a brief account about a time when you or someone you know acted like Icarus.

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