

## ***Hiroshima / All Quiet on the Western Front / The Alchemist:* Establishing a Philosophical Baseline**

Each statement covers a major theme or issue from *Hiroshima*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, and/or *The Alchemist*. On this cheat-sheet, please write “yes” next to the statement if you agree with it, and “no” if you disagree. If you aren’t sure, write what sounds best to you in *most* cases; while it’s important to recognize the nuances of our world, it’s also interesting to see which side you lean toward. **Do not write “I don’t know” or “Both” under any circumstances.**

There are no “correct” answers, but the sheet will help predict how you will react to the text (which is why it’s important to choose one side or the other). Think carefully as you choose your answers, and write several sentences responding to each statement. **You must include examples – real ones from life or art, not hypothetical situations or straw men – whenever you’re explaining and justifying your choices.** We will discuss these during the next few weeks, and well-thought-out positions reached in advance make for better talks!

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ We all have individual destinies, and we cannot escape them. (Relate to *EaPB: The Inferno, Part Two* if possible!)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ I’d rather settle for an imperfect romantic match than risk never finding love at all.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ If I could choose, I’d be the last of my friends and loved ones to go.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Without consequences for actions – both good and ill, fair and unfair – life would be meaningless. (Relate to *EaPB: Gilgamesh* if possible!)
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ I would sacrifice everything, big or small, for my loved ones.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ Our weaknesses will prevent our species from ever reaching its full potential. (Relate to *EaPB: The Inferno, Part One* if possible!)
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ It’s worse to know too much than to know too little.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ I would rather find myself powerless to do anything than to only be free enough to do exactly what I am told.
- i. \_\_\_\_\_ It’s better for those who wage war to refrain from fighting it themselves.
- j. \_\_\_\_\_ I don’t maintain relationships with anyone I don’t need.
- k. \_\_\_\_\_ I would rather fail alone than become a burden for those I would ask for support.
- l. \_\_\_\_\_ I make my own luck; I have the power to shape my life through my own choices.
- m. \_\_\_\_\_ My fears are more powerful than my hopes.
- n. \_\_\_\_\_ Humanity knows how to dream of a better future, but is incapable of realizing it.
- o. \_\_\_\_\_ I’m living a life worthy of an epitaph, and I **will** be remembered.