

The Alchemist's Letter

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

Watch the opening 45 seconds (up until we see 'The Alchemist's Letter')

- What have we learned up to now? **S**
- What do Alchemist's do? (share a dictionary definition) **V**
- Why does the film maker include this section before the titles? **E**
- What is the film going to be about? **P**

Pause the film after 54 seconds when the man looks at the key and sighs.

- When is the story set? How do we know? **I**
- How is the man feeling? **I**

Pause the film after the phrase, 'The more powerful the machine.'

- What relationship between the narrator and the man we can see? **R**
- What is the man's name? **R**
- What has his father left behind? **R**
- Where is his father? **I**
- Why do you think he has left it behind? **I**
- Do you think Veridion has seen his father recently? **I**
-

Pause the film at 1 min 35 seconds where we see two people sitting by a waterfall.

- What are your most precious memories?
- What do you think the narrators most precious memories could be? **P**
- What does the word precious mean? **V**

Pause the film at 2 min 15 seconds after the phrase, 'She died alone.'

- What are the narrator's most precious memories? **R**
- Why do you think this is? **E**
- Why do you think Veridion's mother died alone? **I E**

Pause at 2 mins 43 When the young Veridion throws away the pocket watch.

You may want to rewatch that section.

- What does the narrator mean when he says, "because of the creature I was becoming?" We see a visual metaphor of the minotaur. **V E**
Does the author actually mean he was physically changing? **E**
- Who is sat under the tree with the pink leaves? **I**
- What do you think he is thinking before he throws the watch? **I**
- Why does he throw the watch away? **I E**

Pause the film after the phrase, "Just as I abandoned you." 3 mins.

- Why was Veridion abandoned? **R**
- Why might his father think Veridion will abandon his daughter? **I E R**

Cont...

Pause the film after the word Nicholas at 3 mins 22 secs.

- What is the narrator's name? **R**
- What things matter the most? **E**
- What is the thing that matters the most? **R**
- What is interesting about the way the last section of the letter is written?
 *"Now I understand what matters the most. Love.
 Your father Nicholas"*
 or
 *"Now I understand what matters the most.
 Love your father, Nicholas."* **E**

Pause the film at 3 mins 30 secs when the machine explodes.

- What has created the gold watch? **R**
- Why do you think machine has exploded? **P**
- Do you think Nicholas ever succeeded in creating gold? **E**

Pause the film at 3min 45 secs when Veridion is looking at the watch.

- What do you think he is thinking now? **E**
- What do you think will happen next? **P**
- What has happened to the machine? Why? **E R**

At the end of the film

- Why doesn't Veridion take any of the coins with him? **E**
- Does he take anything with him? **R**
- Why has the laughter been included in the closing credits? What does it show? **E**