**What to do today**

**1. Listen to the story again**

* Listen to the reading of *The Last Alchemist* again.

<https://youtu.be/rlRh0qqKPyI>

* What new things do you notice when you hear the story a second time? Try to think of 3-5 things.

**2. Imagine the trial of Spinifex**

* Imagine that Spinifex has been put on trial for what he did.
* What could be said against him? What might he say from his point of view? Write your ideas on *For/Against*.
* Look at both sets of ideas and write a *Summary Paragraph* that the judge could read, summing up and deciding whether Spinifex is innocent or guilty.

**3. Read a poem**

* Read *Alchemy by Sara Teasdale*. Read it twice, once in your head and once out loud.
* Try learning the poem off by heart. Use the *Tips for Learning a Poem by Heart* to help you.

*Well done. Show your Summary Paragraph to a grown-up. Explain to them what Spinifex did in the story.*

**Try the Fun-Time Extras**

Alchemists dreamt of turning lower metal into pure gold. What magical powers would you most like to have? Write to describe five of them and explain how you would use them. Interview others to find out what they would choose.

**For/Against**

*Why might someone argue that Spinifex was wrong? What might he say in his defence? Write your ideas here.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Spinifex** | **Against Spinifex** |

**Summary Paragraph**

***What might a judge say at the end of Spinifex’s trial?***

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**Alchemy**



*Sarah Teasdale noticed how a flower colours clear rain-drops. This is her poem:*

I lift my heart as spring lifts up

A yellow daisy to the rain;

My heart will be a lovely cup

Altho’ it holds but pain.

For I shall learn from flower and leaf

That colour every drop they hold,

To change the lifeless wine of grief

To living gold.

by Sara Teasdale

**Top tips for learning a poem by heart**

* Read the poem aloud several times slowly.
* Copy the poem out a couple of times.
* Be strategic. Pick a poem with a pattern, metre and rhyme are much easier to learn by heart than free verse.
* Learn and internalise the “story” in the poem
* Understand the poem by knowing every word’s meaning
* With a card, cover everything but the first line of the poem. Read it. Look away, see the line in the air, and say it. Look back. Repeat until you’ve “got it.”
* Uncover the second line. Learn it as you did the first line, but also add second line to first, until you’ve got the two.
* Then it’s on to three. Always repeat the first line on down, till the whole poem sings.

