

## The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

### Reading Assignment #1

1. Who is Santiago? Describe him.
2. Who is Manolin?
3. Identify Martin.
4. Why is the boy not fishing with the old man anymore? Does he want to?
5. What did the other fishermen think of the old man?
6. Describe Santiago's house.
7. What's the point behind the conversation about yellow rice with fish and the cast net?
8. Why is there so much talk about baseball, specifically DiMaggio?
9. "There are many good fishermen and some great ones. But there is only you." What does the boy mean?
10. What is Hemingway's point to having the old man say, "I may not be as strong as I think . . ."
11. What did the old man dream about?

### Reading Assignment #2

1. How did Santiago think of the sea? (To what does he compare it?)
2. "It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes, you are ready." Explain.
3. What fish did the old man catch first?
4. "If the other heard me talking out loud, they would think that I am crazy . . . But since I am not crazy, I do not care." What does that tell us about the old man's character?
5. What happened when the old man first tried to pull in the bill fish?
6. What does the old man think of porpoises and flying fish, and the pair of marlin he had hooked before?
7. Santiago often wishes the boy were there. Why?
8. "His choice had been to stay in the deep dark water far out beyond all snares and traps . . . My choice was to go there to find him beyond all people . . . in the world." Explain the importance of this passage.
9. Why did Santiago want the fish to turn and swim with the current?
10. Explain the significance of "Take a good rest, small bird . . . Then go in and take your chances like any man or bird or fish."
11. What happened when the fish lurched?
12. What was Santiago's problem with the left hand?

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### Reading Assignment #3

1. How big was the fish?
2. "But, thank God, they are not as intelligent as we who kill them, although they are more noble and more able." What's Hemingway saying?
3. "He settled comfortably against the wood and took his suffering as it came . . ." is one of the many religious references in the novel. To whom is Santiago compared in this one?

4. Santiago feels he must "prove himself" to the fish and to the boy. "Now he was proving it again. Each time was a new time . . . ." What is the implication in broader terms; do we EVER stop having to prove ourselves (according to Hemingway)?
5. Who was El Campeon? How did he get that name?
6. What second fish did the old man catch, and what will he do with it?
7. Santiago tries to justify killing the big fish by thinking of how many people he will feed. What does the old man conclude?
8. Santiago sleeps again. What does he dream of now?
9. What woke him up?
10. When did the fish start to circle?
11. How did the old man kill the big fish?

#### Reading Assignment #4

1. How did Santiago intend to take the fish back to port since the fish was bigger than the boat?
2. Santiago asks himself, ". . . is he bringing me in or am I bringing him in?" What does he conclude?
3. What problem did the old man have getting the fish home?
4. What are the old man's arguments with himself about whether or not killing the big fish is a sin? (What arguments does he make for and against it being a sin?)
5. The old man apologizes to the big fish. ("I am sorry that I went too far out. I ruined us both.") Why?
6. What of the big fish is left by the time Santiago reaches home?
7. With the mast on his shoulder, Santiago had to stop and rest five times on his way home. What is the symbolic reference?
8. Identify Pedrico.
9. Why does Manolin cry?
10. What is the conclusion of the story?