

SIMPLIFIED READERS

B1

LEVEL 4

The Old Man and the Sea

ERNEST HEMINGWAY



WORKSHEETS

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ABOUT THE NOVEL

The Old Man and the Sea was written by Ernest Hemingway, who is one of the greatest 20th century American novelists. Hemingway was also a short-story writer, journalist and sportsman. He wrote this short novel in 1951 in Cuba, and it was published in 1952. It was Hemingway's last work of fiction published during his lifetime. He first published *The Old Man and the Sea* in Life magazine in 1952. Then the book became a best seller and made Hemingway an international celebrity. With this book, Hemingway won the Pulitzer Prize for

Fiction in 1953, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Award of Merit Medal. The book also helped him to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Hemingway dedicated this prize to the people of Cuba. *The Old Man and the Sea* tells the story of an old Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant fish far out in the Gulf Stream. It also reflects an old man's fight against age, loneliness and nature. *The Old Man and the Sea* is taught at schools across the world. In 1958, it was made into a film starring actor Spencer Tracy as the old man.

SUMMARY

Santiago is an old Cuban fisherman who goes fishing in the Gulf Stream. He considers himself unlucky because he hasn't been able to catch a fish for 84 days. During the first 40 days, there was a young boy on his boat to help him, but the boy's parents made him leave and work on another boat. However, the boy loves and feels sorry for the old man and continues to help him before and after his own work every day. He helps to launch the old man's boat early in the morning each day. And every evening, he helps to take the old man's boat to land and carries his equipment. He also brings food and water to the shack where the old man lives. And in return, early each morning, Santiago walks up the road to the boy's home to wake him up for work. He often tells the boy stories about baseball legends. He talks about his fishing experiences as a young fisherman, when he used to go fishing off of Africa. On the evening of the 84th day, Santiago decides to go farther out into the Gulf Stream, to the north of Cuba, the next morning. He thinks that his luck can change, and he can catch a big fish there.

Before sunrise on the morning of the 85th day, the boy helps Santiago launch his boat into the sea as usual. Then Santiago rows past the place where he has been trying to catch fish for the past one week. By the time the sun comes out, he finds a good spot and drops his fishing lines at different depths in the water. Finally, in the early afternoon, he catches a big tuna, which would be his meal for the day. Suddenly, he feels a very hard pull on one of his lines. He thinks it is a marlin eating the sardine bait, 600 feet below. Santiago becomes very excited because he thinks it must be a huge marlin. When he thinks the marlin has gotten caught on the hook, he tries to pull the fish up. The marlin is so big that it doesn't move. Then the marlin begins to pull the boat and pulls it farther and farther into the ocean, where Santiago cannot see the land anymore.

At sunrise on Santiago's second day at sea, the marlin suddenly begins to move faster, pulling the line more strongly, which cuts Santiago's hand. While Santiago is taking care of his hand, the marlin jumps up out of the water. It is bigger than any marlin Santiago has ever seen or caught on his own. Now Santiago has to hold onto the line with all his strength so that the marlin does not get free and swim away. Santiago prays that he will be able to kill the marlin. While it is getting dark, Santiago drops a small line into the water and catches a dolphin this time. He decides to eat it to get stronger. He rests for a few hours but wakes up when the marlin jumps wildly. Santiago continues holding the line although his hand hurts. Then the marlin gets tired and begins to move in circles around the boat. By this time, Santiago has become very weak and tired, and he hasn't had any sleep. Finally, Santiago manages to kill the marlin. He ties the marlin to the side of his boat and begins sailing back toward Cuba. During this return journey, however, sharks attack the marlin, tearing and eating its flesh. Santiago desperately kills some of the sharks and scares some others away. Eventually, however, the sharks eat all the flesh off the marlin. Then Santiago sails back to the harbour dragging the skeleton of the marlin by the side of the boat. Everyone is asleep when he reaches home. Santiago struggles to carry his mast back to his shack. He is so tired that he leaves the marlin's skeleton still tied to his boat.

The next morning, the boy finds Santiago asleep in his shack. He is happy to see him alive after he has been missing for three days. The cuts on Santiago's hands make him cry. Then he goes out to bring the old man coffee. Meanwhile, a crowd of fishermen have gathered around Santiago's boat. They are looking at the giant skeleton. When Santiago wakes up, the boy tells him that he's going to start fishing with him again and that he doesn't care about what his parents will say. After drinking his coffee, Santiago falls asleep again with the boy beside his bed. He dreams about his old fishing days off the coast of Africa and the lions playing around.

Discuss before you begin reading:

- 1 Have you ever gone fishing in a boat? Where, when and with whom? Did you catch anything? How did it make you feel?
- 2 Have you heard / read a real-life story or seen a film about a deadly shark attack? Do you think it is safe to swim / fish far out in the ocean? Why / Why not?

A What are they? Match the words listed below (1-10) with the descriptions (a-j). Put the number of each word next to its description.

1 oar	2 harbour	3 skiff	4 gaff	5 shack	6 gear	7 net	8 harpoon	9 mast	10 bait
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	a a tall pole on a boat or ship that supports its sails
	b an iron hook with a handle for holding and lifting large fish
	c a long spear attached to a rope, used for killing whales or large fish
	d a place of safety for ships
	e something made of string or rope stitched together, for catching fish or butterflies
	f food placed on a hook to attract and catch fish
	g a small flat-bottomed open boat
	h a long pole with a wide, flat part at one end, used for rowing a boat
	i a simple hut built from tin or wood
	j equipment or tools needed for a special purpose

B Word Search

There are six fish names in this puzzle. Can you find them?

Y	K	F	D	O	L	P	H	I	N
E	Y	J	A	X	H	D	E	Y	K
B	L	S	A	R	D	I	N	E	Y
J	D	S	H	A	R	K	C	K	N
Q	J	G	S	D	C	I	D	S	Z
D	K	A	Q	M	A	R	L	I	N
E	J	E	L	L	Y	F	I	S	H
Y	E	M	F	H	Y	D	V	I	M
L	W	E	C	D	K	F	F	Q	M
Q	T	U	N	A	B	X	V	V	X

- 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

A When you finish reading Chapter 1, look at the chart below and tick (✓) the items that apply to the names at the top. Then skim through the chapter and check.

WHO / WHAT?	DiMaggio	Indians of Cleveland	Luque	Manolin	Martin	Mike Gonzales	Santiago	Terrace	Yankees
baseball manager									
old fisherman									
café owner									
baseball team									
Cuban boy									
local café									
baseball star									

B When you finish reading Chapter 2, put the events below in the same order as they appear in it.

- 1 The old man rows his boat out of the harbour when it is still dark in the morning.
- ___ A school of tuna emerge from the water, jumping out.
- ___ The old man follows a man-of-war bird flying in circles ahead of the boat
- ___ The old man takes the fish into the boat and decides to use it as bait for bigger fish.
- ___ The old man sees a swelling of water, which means there are dolphins underneath.
- ___ The dolphins follow the flying fish, and so they get away from the boat.
- ___ One of the tuna bites the bait, and is caught.
- ___ Slowly, the boat begins to move northwest, pulled by the strength of the marlin.
- ___ The old man places the baits and lowers his lines into the water.
- ___ The old man puts another line with bait at its end into the water
- ___ The hook gets stuck in the marlin's mouth, which causes it to pull on the line.
- ___ When the bird dives, a lot of flying fish jump out of the water and try to escape over the surface.
- ___ The old man feels a pull on one of the lines.
- ___ A marlin has begun eating the sardines on the hook.

Now go back to the chapter and check your ordering.

A Here are some of the things that the old man says while he is on the boat for three days.

Decide what/who the underlined words are and match what he says (1-10) with the items in the box (a-j).

- __1 What a fish! He has it sideways in his mouth now, and he is moving off with it.
- __2 Perhaps I should not have been a But that was the thing I was born for.
- __3 I can do nothing with him, and he can do nothing with me.
- __4 I wish I had the boy. To help me and to see this.
- __5 How old are you? Is this your first trip?
- __6 It is a strong, full-blooded fish. I was lucky to get him instead of the dolphin. Dolphin is too sweet. This is hardly sweet at all, and all the strength is still in it.
- __7 I do not want to open it by force. Let it open by itself. After all, I abused it much in the night when I was untying the lines.
- __8 I wonder what the sea looks like from that height. They should be able to see the fish well if they do not fly too high.
- __9 He took about forty pounds off the fish. He took my harpoon and all the rope.
- __10 It's half a day and a night and now another day, and you have not slept. You must find a way to sleep a little, if the fish is quiet and steady.

- | |
|---|
| <p>a the tuna that he has caught and cut up</p> <p>b the warbler (bird sitting on his line)</p> <p>c the people on the airplane that is flying above the boat</p> <p>d the hook which the marlin does not swallow</p> <p>e becoming a fisherman</p> <p>f a shark that attacks the dead marlin attached to his boat</p> <p>g himself; the marlin</p> <p>h being pulled by the huge marlin that he has caught</p> <p>i the hooked marlin that is pulling the boat</p> <p>j his cramped hand</p> |
|---|

B Fill in the blanks with the words listed below.

oars	fins	club	weapons	pack	seizes	flesh	approaching	harpoon	skiff
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After he sees a shark ¹ _____ with its mouth open, the old man hears the skin and ² _____ of the big fish being eaten. So, he pushes the ³ _____ onto the shark's head, and the shark goes down with it. Since he expects more sharks to come to eat up the big fish, he attaches his knife to the end of one of the ⁴ _____. Two hours later, he sees the wide flat heads and ⁵ _____ of more sharks coming toward the ⁶ _____. He kills them one by one. At midnight, sharks come in a ⁷ _____. He begins to hit them on their heads with his ⁸ _____, but one of the sharks ⁹ _____ it and swims away. So now, the old man has no ¹⁰ _____ left to kill them.

A Choose the words/phrases in the box (a-h) that complete the sentences. (8x2=16 pts)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| a marlin and sharks | e a tuna |
| b the big marlin | f green turtles |
| c sardines | g DiMaggio |
| d the sharks | h lions on the beach |

- 1 Santiago often dreams about _____.
- 2 The successful fishermen often catch _____.
- 3 _____ is Santiago's hero; he often compares himself to him.
- 4 The boy gave Santiago _____ before he set out for his fishing trip.
- 5 Santiago caught _____ on the 85th day.
- 6 Santiago loves _____, but he used to eat their eggs for strength.
- 7 Santiago felt sorry for _____, but he had to kill it.
- 8 Santiago was determined to fight _____ and keep the marlin to himself.

B Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F). (10x2=20 pts)

- 1 Santiago always thinks the sea is his enemy.
- 2 The old fishermen feel sorry for Santiago.
- 3 Santiago is annoyed by the flying fish and jellyfish in the sea.
- 4 Santiago does not have a compass to guide him at sea.
- 5 Despite his age, Santiago has not lost his strength and his excitement for struggle.
- 6 Santiago is a spiritual man.
- 7 Santiago wants the paper every day in order to read the baseball news.
- 8 No one worried about Santiago when he did not return from the sea.
- 9 Santiago is disappointed at the end because the marlin wins.
- 10 Manolin decides to work for Santiago again although there isn't anything he can learn from him.

C Mark the correct answers. (10x3=30 pts)

- 1 **The boy's parents make him go fishing on another boat because Santiago is - - - .**
 a too old b unlucky c very strange
- 2 **How long has the boy been with Santiago?**
 a for 84 days b for forty days
 c since he was five
- 3 **During the three days at sea, Santiago did not eat - - - .**
 a dolphin meat b a flying fish
 c bits of the marlin's meat
- 4 **Why did Santiago want the marlin to jump up?**
 a so that he could pull it onto the boat
 b so that it would be close enough for him to kill it
 c so that he could see how big it was
- 5 **How did the marlin die?**
 a It swallowed the hook which was in its mouth.
 b Sharks attacked it, tearing it into pieces.
 c Santiago killed it with his harpoon.

6 Why did Santiago take the marlin's skeleton all the way to the shore?

- a It was attached to his line at the side of his skiff.
- b He wanted to prove that he caught a big fish.
- c He wanted everyone to see its size.

7 How did the boy react when he finally saw the old man in his shack?

- a He ran out to tell everyone that he was back.
- b He was very sad to see him dead.
- c He cried on his way to get him a coffee.

8 What was Santiago's biggest problem during the three days that he was in the middle of the ocean?

- a hunger and thirst
- b tiredness and pain
- c loneliness and boredom

9 What does the story tell us about the old man?

- a He is always rewarded for his hard work.
- b He does not give up easily.
- c He only cares about earning money.

10 What is the story mainly about?

- a an old man's fight for survival
- b an old man's fight against sharks
- c an old man's struggle to get a huge fish

D Match the sentence halves in the boxes below. (5x4=20 pts)

- | |
|--|
| 1 He would not think too much ... |
| 2 He is not able to fight with the sharks any longer ... |
| 3 He is beaten by the sharks ... |
| 4 He wouldn't feel lonely on the boat ... |
| 5 The sharks stop coming to his boat ... |

- | |
|---|
| a ... if the boy was with him. |
| b ... when there is no more of the marlin's flesh left. |
| c ... if he had a newspaper or radio on the boat. |
| d ... although he fights against them fiercely. |
| e ... because he has nothing left to hit or kill them. |

E Write short answers to these questions. (7x2=14 pts)

- 1 Where does the story take place? _____
- 2 What month does it take place in? _____
- 3 What is Santiago's favourite drink? _____
- 4 Which fishermen feel sorry for Santiago?

- 5 Who gives the food that the boy brings to Santiago?

- 6 Who would Santiago like to take fishing with him although he knows it won't happen? _____
- 7 What was inside the dolphin that Santiago caught?

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