

*The Old Man and The Sea*

Ernest Hemingway

MacMillan Publishing Company

1952©

Fiction

127 Pages

## A Quick and Easy Read

By Jonathan A. 2014

*The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway is a book for the ages. There is a reason why people have been reading this classic since 1952. The old man Santiago and the boy named Manolin have a special relationship that will touch anyone's heart. Santiago goes on a journey, the classic hero quest that will keep anyone reading.

The old man, Santiago, and the boy, Manolin, live in Cuba. Santiago is a very experienced fisherman and the Manolin is eager to fish and spend time with Santiago. One day the old man decides to go on a fishing trip. Earlier that morning he woke up feeling extremely lucky. This makes him excited because he currently has an 84 day streak of not catching any fish. During his time on the boat alone you learn a lot about his character and it means to have courage. Also the major theme of this book is to never give up and what it means to be ethical.

One of the strengths of the content is the character of the old man. He had every trait that a person would dream to have. For example, Santiago says "I must hold on all I can." This shows

how much strength and courage he has. He has been on the boat for a number of days and his hands are cut up because of the fishing line. This is one of the biggest strengths of the content because it is such engaging action that will keep you wanting more. Another one of the strengths of the content was the engaging action. For instance, "He had come up so fast and absolutely no caution, he broke the surface of the blue water and was in the sun." This is also a major strength because of the suddenness of the actions and that unexpectedness of them which makes the book extremely enjoyable. On the other hand there is also a weakness. There is a substantial period in the book where there is really no action and there is just dialogue between Santiago and Manolin. This is a weakness that makes part of the book very uninteresting and you might find yourself daydreaming while reading this part.

The author of *The Old Man and The Sea*, Ernest Hemingway had a very unique and crazy life along with writing many other books and forms of writing. His first experience with writing came while covering the Spanish civil war. Soon after, he volunteered in the First World War as an ambulance driver on the Italian front. While serving in WWI he got severely injured and was sent home. A while later he decided to cover WWII on the European front. A very influential book he wrote was *A Farewell to Arms* which was about his experiences in the army during WWI. Some other books that are very influential are *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Sun Also Rises*. In the summer of 1961 he tragically died by committing suicide.

High school students will like this book at first glimpse. It is very short and only 127 pages. It is a classic so many people have heard of this book. When you first pick up this book you might find it boring but you just have to keep reading to get to the climax. After reading this book you will be very inspired by Santiago. He shows an enormous amount of courage and

persistence that will motivate you that you could do whatever you put your mind to. Overall this book gives you a new perspective on life and it does not take very long to read.