The Old Man and the Sea

Ernest Hemingway
Appreciating Novel
Special Paper 3
About the author

• Birth – 21/07/1899 at Oak Park, (Cicero) , United States
• Began career as a journalist, later took to writing
• One of the greatest novelists of the 20 century, well known for his works like *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Old Man and the Sea*
Plot

- Santiago was a poor old fisherman. He could not catch fish for 84 days, so his colleagues made fun of him. Manolin was his disciple and also was his true friend. Manolin was not allowed to accompany Santiago for fishing as Santiago could not catch fish for last 84 days. Santiago embarks on a fishing voyage (to North of Cuba) in the high seas with a small boat under the scorching sun. The circumstances were adverse but Santiago with courage and determination decides to go on with the available resources. There was no one with him on the voyage. While fishing, he catches a giant Merlin fish. The large fish, Merlin, tried to escape from the fishing hook but Santiago carries on his struggle and does not give up. After the long struggle, Santiago controls it and stabs the fish with his harpoon. He then starts. While returning, the blood of Merlin attracts sharks in the sea. Marlin then was attacked by sharks. Santiago tries to save his fish from the attack of sharks. He then brings the skeleton of Marlin fish to the sea shore. On his arrival, the fishermen feels sorry for Santiago.
Santiago

• An old skilled and dedicated fisherman
• Man of strong determination and courage
• Santiago wants to reassert his identity- a skilled fisherman
• Accept inevitable circumstances and fight them with courage and dignity
• Handles his prey the Merlin fish with dignity
• Remains dedicated to his profession
Manolin

- Santiago’s only true friend
- Loves and cares for Santiago
- Fidelity, a devoted friend and is compassionate
- Accepts hard work without complaining
Merlin – the fish

- A giant fish which Santiago catches while fishing after 84 days of failure in fishing
- Santiago praises the qualities of Merlin – endurance, perseverance, does not give up easily
- Merlin and Santiago get closely connected to each other in those three days of struggle
- Santiago kills Merlin and eats it’s flesh to survive (when the Sharks attack the fish)
- the skeleton of Merlin becomes the symbol of victory for Santiago
Points to Remember

• About Santiago – endurance, courage, dedication towards profession, struggle to preserve own identity and dignity of life which he passes on to the next generation – Manolin.

• Santiago does not have materialistic approach towards his profession, he seeks contentment from it.

• The novella brings to light certain aspects – materialistic approach - fishing as mere industry. (A group of fishermen considers fishing as an industry for livelihood and considers sea as a kind of enemy to be defeated)
Themes

• Perseverance
• Endurance
• Skill
• Memory – has strong element of memory- Santiago remembers his past - his ‘powerful’ and strengthy youth and has memory of lions
• Defeat – though Santiago seems to be defeated, (brings only the skeleton), he has succeeded in reasserting his own identity as a skilled fisherman
• Lonliness or isolation – Santiago finds an opportunity to explore his own self and potential while being alone, though torturous, loneliness can be seen as an aid
• 'sature – Santiago shares a bond with the nature, he converse with sea, birds and Sharks while on fishing, these natural elements, animals and birds help the readers to explore Santiago’s character, here Santiago accepts and respects everybody’s role in the nature

• Friendship – Santiago and Manolin’s friendship is that of a Guru and disciple, though young, Manolin is his true friend, he acknowledges and has deep respect for Santiago’s skills in fishing, Santiago also shares a close bond with the natural elements, birds and animals
