

HEMINGWAY

**THE
OLD MAN
AND THE SEA**

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Q1. In *The Old Man and the Sea* Hemingway managed to tell the story of a man on his own that is a parable of all humanity. Discuss this view.

Or

Write an essay on *The Old Man and the Sea* as an allegory of man's life on earth.

Or

The novel, in one aspect, seems to affirm that man may be beaten but not defeated. Explain what Hemingway means by this concept, and comment on the validity of his insight.

Or

Identify what you regard as a major theme of *The Old Man and the Sea*. 135

Q. 2. Hemingway's man is one whom "things are done to", seldom the man who does things. Discuss with special reference to *The Old Man and the Sea*. 138

Q. 3. Which claims your admiration more in *The Old Man and the Sea*—its narrative or its allegory? Give reasons for your answer. 141

Q. 4. Attempt a critical estimate of Hemingway as a novelist making pertinent references to *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Or

What characteristics of Hemingway as a novelist does *The Old Man and the Sea* reveal? Illustrate your answer. 145

Q. 5. "Never before had Hemingway's faith in the spiritual sufficiency of life, lived for itself and lived fully, been so richly expressed as in *The Old Man and the Sea*." Justify or refute the thesis that spiritual sufficiency is the theme of this novel. 149

Q. 6. Discuss whether the Old Man of Hemingway is the expression of the novelist's own mind.

Or

Santiago's story has been widely interpreted as a symbolic representation of Hemingway's vision of himself in 1952.

Or

In what way is the story of *The Old Man and the Sea* a private parable? 152

Q. 7. "The story of Santiago, in one of its meanings, is a parable of youth and age." Amplify.

Or

What symbolic purpose is served by the boy Manolin and by the lions in *The Old Man and the Sea*? 155

Q. 8. "*The Old Man and the Sea* is a classic." Discuss this view.

Or

What are the qualities of *The Old Man and the Sea* that make it a great masterpiece of literary art? 159

Q. 9. "This affirming note, subdued in Hemingway's earlier fiction, is sounded here with unambiguous and unrestricted clarity". Show how *The Old Man and the Sea* strikes a note of affirmation, not negation or scepticism.

Or

How does Hemingway deal with the heroic impulse in *The Old Man and the Sea* ?

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Q. 10. It has been said that the real theme of *The Old Man and the Sea* is solidarity and inter-dependence, not isolation. Discuss this view.

166

Q. 11. "All literature has a social or moral or religious purpose." Examine *The Old Man and the Sea* in the light of this statement.

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Q. 12. "The most substantial disagreement is on whether or not *The Old Man and the Sea* is a tragedy." Would you or would you not call this novel a tragedy ? Give reasons for your answer.

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Select Bibliography

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