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The Old Man and the Sea
BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY


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All references come from the Scribner edition of *The Old Man and the Sea*, copyright 1952.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pages 9 – 27**Characterization**

Objectives: Understanding how character is developed in the novel
Discussing the relationship between characters in the novel

Activity

An author develops character by:

- what a character says
- what characters do
- what other people say about the character, or
- the information the narrator presents.

Hemingway presents the reader with incidents involving the old man and the boy. Through these incidents, he gives the reader insight into the relationship between these two characters.

In small groups, read the seven excerpts. Discuss and take notes on what each excerpt reveals about the relationship between the old man and the boy. Then, decide the method used by Hemingway to show the relationship.

Each group should then fill in the **Student Response Sheet**.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pages 9 – 27**Writing****Objective:** Relating literature to life**Activity**

Prepare a job description for a fisherman in the village. Take notes on the following and decide which elements will appear in your description:

- skills needed
- experience
- equipment needed
- hours
- wages
- benefits
- dangers

Write a job description that you might publish in the village newspaper in order to hire a fisherman. You may write this as an ad that would appear in the paper or as an article.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pages 28 – 43**Voice**

Objectives: Reading with attention to detail
Recognizing a character's attitude

Activity

Imagine that Santiago has come to your biology class as a guest speaker. He is giving a lecture on the sea and the creatures of the sea. Based on your reading of the novel, take notes on what you think Santiago will say about the following topics:

- Flying fish
- The Nature of the Sea
- Man-of-war birds
- Dolphins
- Seaweed/plankton
- Portuguese man-of-war
- Turtles

Use your notes to plan Santiago's lecture. Try to imitate the simple, unadorned way he would say things and adopt his attitude of intense interest in the creatures of the sea. Remember, though, that Santiago understands his world through his work, not through books or studying science. Your final lecture should be written as an informative essay.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pages 63 – 80**Theme****Objective:** Understanding how character and themes come together**Activity**

The old man says to himself, “But I must have confidence and I must be worthy of the great DiMaggio who does all things perfectly even with the pain of the bone spur in his heel.”

Joe DiMaggio, the Yankee baseball player, is a role model for the old man. Consider what the connections are between DiMaggio and Santiago. Complete the chart and compare these two men. We have listed some information in non-chronological order about DiMaggio to help in your comparison. When you have listed a few similarities, you may have a clearer picture of how the baseball player's and Santiago's accomplishments work together to develop a theme dealing with doing something well, despite the odds against it. The first one is done for you. Remember that the book was written in 1952.

JOE DIMAGGIO

- 1914-1999
- Father was a fisherman
- Mother's father was a fisherman
- Father called him lazy for not wanting to fish
- Learned to play baseball using rocks as bases
- Tore ligaments in his leg in an accident, almost ending his career
- Had longest consecutive hitting record in baseball
- Joined the NY Yankees in 1936
- Became first player to earn \$100,000
- Known for his fluid motions, grace, speed, and strength
- Retired because of persistent pain and physical ailments
- Enlisted in the Army during WWII and served three years
- Married Marilyn Monroe in 1954
- Divorced less than a year later
- An unusually private man in the public eye
- Constantly strove to improve his skills