



Book Review

The Old Man And The Sea by Ernest Hemingway.

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“Old Man And The Sea” is one of Hemingway’s most enduring works, published in 1952. The novel has been subject of significant critical commentary and has won the Pulitzer and the Nobel Prize in literature in 1954. Ernest Hemingway was an American novelist, short story writer , and journalist of 20th century .

The novel explores themes such as courage, resilience, pride and respect , and relationships between human and nature. Another theme of the novel is relationship between youth and age repeated by Santiago and his apprentice, Manolin. The book’s title suggests the critical thematic role that age plays in the story. The novel set in the Gulf Stream waters off the coast of Cuba. In the novel story is about a old man named Santiago who is a fisherman, and his battle with Marlin. There are many characters in the novel. In the novel author also shows nature as a character. There are also minor characters in the novel like Martin, Pedrico, Joe DiMaggio etc. There are many symbols in the novel like Shark, Sea, Lions , The Mast , Joe DiMaggio , Sun , Stars, etc.

Santiago is an elderly cuban fisherman who has not caught a fish in 84 days, a long time of period shows in the novel. Santiago was thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck. He is humble, and lives simple life, sleeps on a bed of newspapers. His strength shows struggle and courage and also shows a relationship between human and nature too. He has not



caught any fish in 84 days even so, he did not give up hope and at the end he returned with skeleton of a Marlin That is why he is a symbol of strength.

Manolin a young cuban boy who fished with Santiago since he was a child. Santiago first looks him out on a boat when he was merely five years old. Manolin shows his love for Santiago openly. He cares for Santiago's old age life. Manolin looks up Santiago as a teacher, a father figure , and a hero . He is kind, thoughtful, and as interested in fishing and baseball as Santiago. Both have often talked about baseball in the novel.

The Marlin is one of the main character in the novel. It is interesting that the character of Marlin is not a person but a giant eighteen feet long fish had a purple colour, had fins , a huge tail , who battles with Santiago in the middle of the ocean for three days . This struggle tests Santiago's physical and mental endurance to the limit, pushing him to confront his own humanity and his respect for the natural world.

The sea is a central character in the novel and the most of the story takes place on the sea. The sea can be seen as a reflection of Santiago's own inner world. The sea is metaphor for Santiago's journey. Its calm movements mirror his movements of peace and hope, while its storms reflect his struggles and Internal conflicts.

Martin a minor character of the novel who is the owner of the seaside café, where Santiago and other fisherman eat. He provides meal to Santiago during his unlucky streak that is why Old man says ' Martin is a man of frequent kindness who deserves to be repaid'.

Joe DiMaggio was an American baseball center fielder. Although he never appears in novel, but he plays a significant role in novel. Santiago worships him as a model of strength.

Perico is also a minor character in the novel. At the end Santiago gives him The Marlin' s head



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Philosophy Of Life:

There are several statements in the Novel which shows the philosophy of life Such as:

“Every day is a new day”

It shows keep doing hard work and never give up. This Line also reflects the Santiago’s philosophy of life, which is both optimistic and humble.

“Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”

This iconic line captures the essence of Santiago’s character and his unwavering spirit in the face of adversity.

“No one Should be alone in their old age”

This Statement express Santiago’s belief that companionship and social interaction are essential for individual as they advance in age. The line also reflects a vulnerability of old age.

Reference:

Novel ‘The Old Man And The Sea ’ by Ernest Hemingway, ISBN- 10 , 1994

<https://www.sparknotes.com>.