

Summer Reading

English II—The Hero's Place in the World



The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Scribner Publishers
ISBN: 9780684801223

Hemingway's classic novella is set in the waters off the coast of Cuba, detailing the story of fisherman Santiago's determination, courage, and fortitude in the face of overwhelming hardship.

This summer, read and **annotate** (using the reading signposts) *The Old Man and the Sea*, keeping in mind characterization, allusion, symbolism, archetype, and theme. I will check your annotations when we meet in August, and within the first week of school, you will have an assessment over the book.

The novel is short, but rich. It can also feel a bit boring in moments, admittedly, because it is the story of a fishing trip. However, if you think about the relationship between man and nature and also what might be lying under the surface of the book, I think you will find it a more compelling read.

Hemingway is famous for his “iceberg theory” of writing. After reading the novel, think about the quotation about the iceberg theory below. **Type a one-page response in MLA format discussing how this quote may relate to the novel.** This prompt is not particularly easy, so think and reflect as you read. A “right” answer uses concrete detail and commentary to effectively argue a claim. You will turn this response in on your first day of class.

“If a writer of prose knows enough of what he is writing about, he may omit things that he knows, and the reader, if the writer is writing truly enough, will have a feeling of those things as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an ice-berg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water. A writer who omits things because he does not know them only makes hollow places in his writing.” –Ernest Hemingway