

St. Mary's Academy
2022 Summer Reading
11th Grade

The following books are assigned for summer reading. You will be assessed on the assigned book the first two weeks of school. You will also be expected to bring your knowledge of the book into classroom discussions during the appropriate period.

English 11: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

English 11 Assignment

Please complete the following assignment by the first full day of school. This assignment MUST be typed and printed. Quality is more important than quantity. Enjoy the novel.

1. Identify and describe the following characters: Santiago and Manolin.
2. Define stream of consciousness. Quote the passage that best represents this in the novel.
3. During the first day at sea, we began to see a relationship develop between Santiago and the marlin. How does this relationship deepen on the second day?
4. What incident from his past did Santiago call to mind to give himself confidence? Why might this incident give Santiago confidence in his struggle against the marlin?
5. Define parallel characters. Give examples from the novel of the parallels between Santiago and the marlin.
6. Hemingway uses birds to parallel and symbolize different aspects of Santiago's experience. For example, early in his journey out Santiago notices the small birds who "were always flying and looking and almost never finding." This parallels Santiago's experience on the previous 84 days. Then, just prior to Santiago's success in finding and catching the marlin, a man-of-war bird is seen catching fish. On Santiago's second day at sea, a tired warbler rests on Santiago's stern. What might the appearance of this bird say about Santiago at this point in the story?
7. Santiago wonders if the warbler is a young warbler who has never crossed the gulf before, and he understands that the warbler will "learn about the hawks soon enough." "Take a good rest, small bird," he said. "Then go in and take your chance like any man or bird or fish." What general statement does Santiago seem to be making about the process of growing older?
8. Read again the description of the marlin as it leaps from the water. Hemingway does not give specific measurements of the fish (except to say that it is two feet longer than Santiago's boat), but he lets the reader understand the immensity of the fish through the use of descriptive language. Write down the descriptive words or phrases that are used to communicate the size of the fish.
9. Santiago seems to wish he were the marlin because the marlin possesses certain qualities he admires. What are these qualities? What qualities does Santiago recognize that he himself possesses?
10. Before Santiago dreams of the lions, he has two other dreams. What are these dreams and what might they symbolize?

11. Provide the dictionary definition of a hero. According to Hemingway, the code hero is a man who “lives correctly, following the ideals of honor, courage and endurance [perseverance] in a world that is sometimes chaotic, often stressful, and always painful.” The code hero, he says, must perform his work well to create a kind of personal meaning. Still, life is filled with misfortunes, and a code hero is known by how he endures those misfortunes. Ultimately, the code hero will lose in his conflict with life because he will die. But all that matters is how one faces death. In fact, one should court death, in the bull ring, on the battlefield, against big fish, because facing death teaches us how to live. We might think of this as being “brave” or “courageous.” Using specific examples from the text, describe how Santiago fits into these two definitions/descriptions of a hero.
12. On the second day at sea, Santiago makes a vow to God. Read Numbers 30:1, 2; Deuteronomy 23:21–23; Ecclesiastes 5:4–6; Matthew 5:33–37; and James 5:12. What do these verses say about making vows to God and making vows in general? What difference do you see between the Old Testament verses and the New Testament verses? Why do you think they differ?