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English 1-2

## The Old Man and The Sea

Ernest Hemingway, author of The Old Man and The Sea, depicts a short story of life. Ernest Hemingway uses external conflict between Santiago and the fishermen, the fish, and the struggles at sea to enforce ideas of existentialism. He emphasizes the uniqueness of individuality, freedom of choice, and outcome of ones actions (**loose**). Within the external conflicts, Santiago rises above as an individual.

Existentialism emphasizes the significance of individuality. Santiago, the old man, had trouble catching fish. “He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish.” (page 2) (**quote**). He was expected to be able to catch a fish, although he couldn’t. Day after day, he got up, pushed through, and kept fishing even when people told him he wasn’t good enough (**periodic**). “They sat on the terrace and many of the fishermen made fun of the old man and he was not angry.” (page 3) (**quote**). The fishermen teased him constantly and Santiago didn’t care. He made the choice not to care or listen to what other people said. His choice not to change or give up made the old man an individual.

Santiago shows freedom of choice when he ventured far out into the sea. “Beyond all people in the world” (**quote**). He knew people didn’t fish far out, for it was far away from civilization and could be dangerous. His actions of fishing far out caused him to starve, be attacked by sharks, and be injured (**loose**). He chose to fish, to stay, and to endure (**parallel**). He had opportunities to walk away, however he stuck through the sweet agony (**oxymoron**). He chose to kill a fish who was like his brother. "Fish, I love

you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day ends." (page 54) **(quote)**. Santiago's values allowed him to take charge of his life.

The outcome to Santiago's actions made him a role model for a village boy and apprentice fisherman named Manolin. The external conflicts with the fishermen and battle at sea made Santiago a hero in Manolin's eyes. He didn't hide like a bear during hibernation when the fishermen made him into a laughing stock of the village **(simile)**. He got up every morning and persevered. Out of negative situations, the old man was able to function positively. "Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated" (page 10) **(quote)**. Santiago still had charisma and hope. He didn't allow negative ideas to drag him down. Santiago's attitude and decisions towards life were inspirational to Manolin. From low on the social ladder, through the hardships, and in-between the long days, the old man was an idol **(periodic)**. The old man's approach to obstacles gave Manolin the ability to make his own decisions and become an individualist.

"But there is only one you" (page 23) **(quote)**. Existentialists find the beauty in themselves and make their own decisions. They don't follow society. Existentialists see the uniqueness in individualism, have the freedom of choice, and take responsibility for their actions. "I am a strange old man" **(quote.)** But was he **(rhetorical question)?** Santiago wasn't strange. He has his own values. He lived life differently, made his own decisions, and questioned the social order **(loose)**.