

M.A. English

Semester IV

Paper III

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STYDY MATERIAL **The Old**

Man and The Sea MCQs :

1. Earnest Hemingway was born in 1899
2. The Old Man and The Sea was published in 1952
3. For Whom the Bell Tolls is the longest novel of Hemingway
4. Hemingway's first novel is The Sun also Rises(1926) 5. Nick Adams is the first Hemingway hero
6. The Old Man and The Sea is a parable.
7. Hemingway heroes are the code heroes
8. In the Old Man and The Sea Santiago is a code hero
9. Santiago was accompanied by the boy, Mandolin
10. Man can be destroyed but not defeated
11. Santiago did not get fish for 84 days
12. The Old Man and The Sea is an epic metaphor for life
13. The Old Man and The Sea brought Hemingway the Pulitzer prize in 1953
14. Hemingway died in 1961
15. Hemingway's first work is In Our Time
16. The Sun Also Rises is a war novel

17. A Farewell to Arms was published in 1929
18. Hemingway participated in Spanish war fought between the Fascists and the Republicans
19. Hemingway is a fictional laureate of the lost generation
20. Santiago was a Cuban fisherman
21. Christian religious symbols run through the story.
22. Along with Christian symbols, Hemingway has used numerology in the novel
23. Santiago is endowed with Christian virtues
24. Manolin is a symbol of the old man's past youth
25. Interior monologue is frequent with Hemingway

Q1. Concept of code hero

The code hero offers and exemplifies certain principles of honour, courage and endurance which in a life of tension and pain make a man, a man and enable him to conduct himself well in the losing battle that is life. He shows "grace under pressure".

Q2. Santiago, the best and the finest known of the code heroes.

Santiago behaves perfectly and honourably, with great courage and endurance – while losing to the sharks, the giant fish he has caught. This is life, such is the message the code hero always brings: one must lose, of course, what counts is how one behaves while one is being destroyed.

Q3. Message given by Santiago.

Santiago brings us the message that, while a man may grow old and be wholly down on his luck, he can still dare to persist and win a victory by the very manner of his losing. The great thing is not the victory but the struggle.

Q4. Two important symbols used in the novel Baseball and the lions.

Q5. The ideal hero to Santiago

Joe Di Maggio, the great Yankee player of baseball

Q6. Hemingway's narrative technique

Hemingway's literary style is universally recognised as one of the important innovations of twentieth century literature. He possessed by natural gift a classically precise sense of narrative structure. his most precious gift for writing is his marvellous sensitiveness to impressions. He does not believe in abstract words. According to Chaman Nahal , the narrative technique includes –

Systolic (active), diastolic (passive) and Caesura (moment of pause). The novel has plenty of interior monologue in it. Christian imagery has been used in the novel to link Santiago with Jesus Christ.

7. Character of Santiago

Santiago is an old man, a fisherman by trade. The word Santiago literally means saint James who was originally a fisherman living close to the sea of Galilee and subsequently became an apostle. Eventually he suffered martyrdom. He loses the battle he has won. Three qualities of Santiago deserve attention- his humility, his natural piety and his compassion. He believes in the dictum, "a man can be destroyed but not defeated."

8. Theme of The Old Man and The Sea

This short novel concerns an old Cuban fisherman, Santiago. After 84 days without a fish, he ventures far out to sea alone and hooks a giant marlin in the gulf stream. for two days and two nights, the old man holds on while he is towed farther out to sea; finally he brings the fish alongside, harpoons it and lashes it to his skiff. Almost at once the sharks begin to attack the dead fish to eat its flesh. He fights the sharks, kills many of them, but is eventually left with his broken tiller as his only weapon. The sharks eat all the flesh of the marlin, leaving only the skeleton. Santiago returns to the shore with the skeleton and being half dead with fatigue, makes his way to his hut to sleep and dream of better days. The message is that while a man may grown old and be holy down on his luck, he can still dare, stick to the rules, persist when he is defeated and thwarted and thus by the manner of his losing , win a moral victory. On another level the story can be read as an allegory entirely personal to its author, as an account of his own struggle, his determination and his literary vicissitudes.

9. Christian symbolism in the novel

Christian religious symbols run through the story. Santiago's struggle is reminiscent of the biblical account of Christ's crucifixion. Along with the Christ symbols is a rather intricate numerology which while reinforcing the symbols, depends on them for its importance. Three, seven and forty are key numbers in the Old and New testaments.

10. Character of Manolin

We meet the boy Manolin on the very first page of the novel when we are told that "in the first forty days a boy had been with him. "in other words, the boy has been serving as a kind of companion and assistant to Santiago. The following sentence may be regarded as the key note to the relationship between the old man and the boy, "the old man had taught the boy to fish and the boy loved him." Manolin thinks a good deal of the old man. it is not only a disciple-teacher relationship but a son father relationship. Manolin has a great admiration for Santiago's qualities as a fisherman. Manolin symbolises Santiago's youthful strength and is a constant reminder to Santiago of his own youthful days.