

## Old Man and the Sea Discussion Questions (ESL Book Club)

Discussion Date: April 16, 2021

1. Who is Santiago? Describe Santiago's appearance?
2. Who is Manolin and why is he not fishing with Santiago anymore?
3. Describe Santiago's shack and its contents.
4. These days what does Santiago dream about? No longer dream about?
5. How does Santiago think about the sea? How is it different from the younger fisherman? (To what does he compare it?)
6. "It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes, you are ready." Explain.
7. What does Santiago think of turtles? How does he compare himself to a turtle?
8. What fish did Santiago catch first? What did he do with it?
9. What impressed and saddened Santiago when he had hooked a female marlin before?
10. Santiago often wishes the boy were there. Why?
11. Why does Santiago feel that the great fish are not as intelligent as the men who kill them, but are more noble?
12. What part of his body does Santiago not trust? Why?
13. How did Santiago describe the Big fish when it first came out? How much longer was it than Santiago's skiff?
14. Why does Santiago worship baseball and Joe DiMaggio?
15. In what context does Santiago remember the hand game with the black man? What did the men call Santiago after this match?
16. What second fish did the old man catch, and what will he do with it?
17. Santiago tries to justify killing the Big fish by thinking of how many people he will feed. What does he conclude?
18. How did Santiago intend to take the Big fish back to port since the fish was bigger than his skiff?
19. What are Santiago's arguments with himself about whether or not killing the Big fish is a sin? (What arguments does he make for and against it being a sin?)
20. How does fishing both kill Santiago and keep him alive?
21. Santiago apologizes to the Big fish. ("I am sorry that I went too far out. I ruined us both.") Why?
22. Santiago asks himself, ". . . is he bringing me in or am I bringing him in?" What does he conclude?
23. When Santiago lost his harpoon while battling the Mako shark, how did he create a new weapon?
24. How were the other sharks different from the Mako shark?
25. What of the Big fish is left by the time Santiago reaches home?
26. Why can Santiago not look at the mutilated marlin?

27. Who is Pedrico and what does Santiago want Pedrico to have?
28. Why does Manolin cry at the end?
29. What does the novel "Old Man & the Sea" teaches us? Discuss as a group.