

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

Mr. Martin—American Literature

### ***The Old Man and the Sea* In-Class Writing Test—Round One**

**The Rules:** You have the entire period to plan, write, and revise your multi-paragraph analytical composition. Your composition should include paragraphs, a thesis, evidence, analysis, counterpoints, and all of the skills learned so far this year. While you will not be scored for spelling, please make your best efforts to make sure your paper is legible. Talking of any kind (even once you are finished), phone use, use of unapproved resources, looking at other's work, and any type of integrity-issues will result in a zero and administrative action.

#### **The Prompts:**

1. Discuss Hemingway's "iceberg" principle of writing in relation to *The Old Man and the Sea*.
2. "A man can be destroyed but not defeated," says the old man after the first shark attack. At the end of the story, is the old man defeated? Why or why not?
3. *The Old Man and the Sea* is, essentially, the story of a single character. Indeed, other than the old man, only one human being receives any kind of prolonged attention. Discuss the role of Manolin in the novella. Is he necessary to the book?
4. Some critics believe that Ernest Hemingway's protagonist, Santiago, can be considered an everyman. In other words, people believe that Santiago can represent any man (or woman) in the world. For the purposes of this essay, view Santiago as a symbolic everyman. Explain why Santiago can be viewed as such. What could Hemingway be saying about life? Could *The Old Man and the Sea* be considered a metaphor for life's journey? Explain how you came to your conclusions by using specific examples from the text.
5. Every person makes choices and lives with the consequences. Choose one character from *The Old Man and the Sea* and describe a choice he made and the results of that decision.
6. The theme of a work is the central idea, lesson, or message that the author wants to get across. Choose one theme from *The Old Man and the Sea*, explain it, and show how it could apply to your life.
7. The setting of a literary work is the time and place of the action. Describe the setting of *The Old Man and the Sea* and explain how it influenced the action and plot of the story.

8. Often in literature, a character struggles against powerful forces or obstacles that have a significant effect on that character. In *The Old Man and the Sea*, identify a character who struggled against powerful forces and obstacles. Explain what these forces and obstacles were, and how they affected the character.

9. Pretend you have written an award-winning sequel to *The Old Man and the Sea* called *An Old Man, a Young Man, and the Sea*. Your novella focuses on Santiago and Manolin's fishing business and friendship. Describe their friendship and explain why it is important to your sequel (or, if you're not feeling too creative, but like this prompt regardless, base your response on how their friendship is important to the story *The Old Man and the Sea*).

10. Compare and contrast the themes, plot, and characters in *The Old Man and the Sea* with those in Crane's "The Open Boat."