The Old Man and the Sea is a short novel written by the American author Ernest Hemingway in 1951 in Cuba, and published in 1952. It was the last major work of fiction by Hemingway that was published during his lifetime. One of his most famous works, it tells the story of Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream off the coast of Cuba.

In 1953, The Old Man and the Sea was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and it was cited by the Nobel Committee as contributing to their awarding of the Nobel Prize in Literature to Hemingway in 1954.

After you have read The Old Man and the Sea, answer the following questions that are based on the novel as a whole. These questions have no right or wrong answer; they simply ask for your opinions. Be sure to answer each question with a specific, explicit thesis, and then support and explain your thesis with specific, vivid support from the novel (CER response). Vague, under-developed answers will be graded accordingly.

- Answers should be typed (12 pt. font, Times New Roman, or Arial double-spaced), printed, and handed in. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Submissions should have the heading of your name, my name (Mr. David), course (English 10), and date in the top left hand corner. All work should be yours. You may not use online resources like sparknotes, etc. All occurrences of plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council and disciplinary action will be taken.

This assignment is due on the first day of class. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade for each late day.

General Guidelines

- Type your answers in the order the questions are asked on this sheet. Be sure to double space throughout.
- Answer each question with a complete, thoughtful paragraph. Each paragraph should contain an explicit thesis and specific support.
- Each answer must include a direct quotation from the book. Don’t repeat any quotations. Each quote should be cited with the page number, using correct MLA format.
  - For example: “A man can be destroyed but not defeated” (34).
- Do not use quotations that are four lines of typing or over. Get to the heart of the quotation rather than quoting large “chunks.”
Questions

1. Although the surface of the narrative deals with a man’s external struggle with nature, the story is really about Santiago’s internal conflict. Define Santiago’s internal conflict and introspection.

2. Why does Santiago idolize Joe DiMaggio? How does he draw strength from this hero?

3. What is the significance do the lions on the beach have for the old man?

4. “A man can be destroyed but not defeated,” says the old man after the first shark attack. Is he defeated at the end of the story? Why or why not?

5. Manolin is the only other human character in the book who receives significant attention. Discuss the relationship between Santiago and Manolin. Why is this necessary for the novel?