

FAT journal entry by Anwell Meng, Grade 7

Week of 2/16/18 and 2/23/18:

I think the Old Man is very wise. His persistence and attitude towards fishing shows his great personality. I feel bad for him because of all the other fishermen making fun of him. Even though the Old Man ignores them, it is still not right. I think one day the Old Man will catch a big fish and become rich because he is not catching any fish right now. I think the culture of the characters is either Hispanic or Asian. The name Santiago sounds more like a Hispanic name. I so far like the Old Man and the boy.

I agree with the Old Man how the elderly can wake up very early. I feel that most younger children sleep late and wake up late. I can sometimes sleep up to 14 hours, I have done it before. On the weekends, my days are cut in half because I wake up at noon-time. My breakfasts are usually the regular person's lunch. I have 2 meals a day. What I am amazed at is that the Old Man can run on a cup of coffee and a bottle of water throughout the day. How can he go through the day without any food? He will not get any energy! I predict that the Old Man will get a big fish or lots of small fish because of how far he traveled. The opportunity of success always comes around to everyone, no matter how unsuccessful they are.

I am worried for the Old Man, for he mentioned on page 10, "Everything that shows on the surface today travels very fast and to the north-east. Can that be the time of day? Or is it some sign of weather that I do not know?" I predict that the Old Man will get caught in a storm. Usually fish do not swim in the same direction very fast. That usually means something is coming. Most animals can tell things before they happen, such as dogs predicting earthquakes. Dogs act restless and odd before an earthquake, and this might be the same with fish and storms. I hope the Old Man does not get caught in a storm, for he is not very strong and alone and far away from the shore.

I think the Old Man is not human. He can sit for a whole day, holding on to a line being pulled by a big fish, without eating anything. The fish pulled him so far no land is visible! I also found out the setting of the story: Havana. The Old Man mentioned at night he would be able to see the glow of Havana in order to get back home. I wonder how the fish does not die or stop from pulling the boat. This must be a ginormous fish.

--

I feel bad for the Old Man. I think the fish that is pulling the Old Man is similar to him. They both have the same persistence and attitude towards what they're doing. They will do their best, no matter what they're doing and will not stop. They both also last days without food. I believe that the Old Man and the fish are now in the middle of the ocean, with no land nearby. I am starting to understand why the author named the story "The Old Man and the Sea." I can relate to the Old Man never catching fish. I have only caught four total fish in my life. My first fish caught was when I was 3 ½ years old. I used to live in Monroe, New Jersey. I caught a sunny fish. Then, only last summer I caught three more fish. I usually do not have good luck with fishing.

I cannot believe the Old Man caught a swordfish! I found it amusing when he realized it was longer than his boat dock. I wonder how the Old Man will kill it when he gets it out of the water. Hitting it in the head with a knife most likely won't work. I think it was worth it waiting to catch the fish, but I am afraid for the Old Man because I do not think he will find a way back home. My prediction was correct, for if the Old Man successfully brings the fish out of the water, he will have caught the biggest fish in his life.

I thought I had seen it all, but I was pleasingly wrong. I now cannot believe the Old Man caught a dolphin! This will now feed him until he catches the swordfish, if he does. I think that my theory of opportunity coming to everyone applies to this story, because so far all the characters we've met in the story, the Old Man, Santiago, and the fellow fishermen, have gotten an opportunity for success. The only difference with the Old Man is that he didn't get many small opportunities, he received one large opportunity, which he took. I am even more worried for the Old Man now because the swordfish pulled him for about three total days.

I wonder how many hours of sleep the Old Man has had. He is starting to see black circles! He only had about three meals within three days. I guess he had about 5 total hours of sleep. Though I oppose what the Old Man is doing, I understand why he is doing. If I was in his situation, and I basically never caught any fish, then I would probably do the same. I also respect the fish highly like the Old Man. I hope the Old Man catches the fish, for if he doesn't and the fish swims away, it would be terribly sad and I think the Old Man would not be able to recover.

I do not think it was a sin to kill the sharks that approached the Old Man's boat. I feel that in this case, the Old Man deserved the fish he caught, and the first shark had no right to take his prize. The other two galano sharks were dirty scavengers, who would bite at humans without reason. I don't think it was right for the Old Man to kill the sharks, but I also don't think it was wrong. If I were there, I would have preferred the Old Man to kill them instead of let them eat his fish.

I feel bad for the Old Man. After finally catching a magnificent fish, multiple groups of sharks come and eat it all. Maybe the man carries a curse, and no matter how many fish he catches, he will always come back with nothing. I do not think this is true, but it may be possible. This situation reminds me of society. The Old Man is an innocent person with a goal and dream.

When he hooks the huge fish and stays with it, I imagine this as the innocent person slowly reaching his or her goal. When the Old Man brings the fish in and is in awe at the fish's size, this is the person basking in their success of reaching their goal. But then, after, society and others start hating on the person, like how the sharks start breaking down the fish and eating it. The person is defenseless against the haters, or in the Old Man's case, the sharks. The success gets destroyed by others, and like how the Old Man returns with nothing, the person returns to his/her original starting point.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim'.

Excellent job! 4.20.18

Week of 4/27/28:

I am very happy that the Old Man made it back. Although he didn't bring the fish home, the head and skeleton was brought back, and all the fishermen found out about the huge fish he caught. I think the Old Man has received the respect he deserves from the fishermen. I am also glad that the boy is going to fish with the Old Man. They are a great fishing duo because their personalities and fishing habits fit each other, even the Old Man has admitted this. Overall, this was a great book and a great read.