

The Old Man And the Sea

by Ernest Hemingway

Study Guide

by Calvin Roso



First Printing

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The Old Man and the Sea
A Progeny Press Study Guide
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How to Use This Guide

In preparing study guides, we have attempted to divide the reading of each book into manageable sections. For the shorter books at lower grade levels, this sometimes means examining the story as a whole. More often, however, the readings are divided into chapters or groups of chapters of similar length or theme. Students should read the chapters indicated and complete that section of the study guide before continuing with the reading.

The study guide provides vocabulary exercises and questions corresponding to each section of reading. Vocabulary exercises for a section are best done before that section is read. However, when vocabulary exercises refer to the context of a word, exercises may be done during or after the reading.

The questions found in each section of the guide generally progress from basic story comprehension to questions dealing with themes, characters, and applications to the students' lives. But the most important thing to keep in mind when using this study guide is that it is simply a *guide*. Although we feel the study guide is most effective when used in its entirety, you may find that individual questions may not be pertinent to your students. It is perfectly acceptable to choose exercises based on the ability of your students or to choose exercises that accentuate or act as a springboard to your own lessons.

If you find that your students are having trouble keeping up in the study guide, or are very resistant to reading the book and using the study guide, you may try giving the students more time to complete lessons either by literally allowing more time or by having the students answer fewer questions in each lesson.

Bible passages used and referred to in this guide are generally from the New International Version of the Bible. We have indicated where other versions are used.

Synopsis

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. . . .*

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

—2 Corinthians 4:8,9,16

After 84 days without taking a fish, Santiago is soon to catch something larger than he can ever imagine. It is his courage and perseverance of character that enables him to go out to sea in his weather-beaten boat each day.

In the midst of ridicule from younger fishermen, Santiago finds courage in his friendship with a young boy, Manolin, who has fished with Santiago since he was five years old. But because of Santiago's "bad luck," Manolin's parents will not allow the boy to fish with Santiago any more.

This short novel shows the outcome of one man's endurance in the midst of defeat, and how the friendship of a young boy gives him hope. *The Old Man and the Sea* won author Ernest Hemingway the Pulitzer Prize in 1953.