

Novel

Lecture number 2

Assist prof:Halima Ismail Radam

The Old Man and the Sea (Plot summary)

The old man and the sea tells the story of Santiago , an aging Cuban fisherman, who alone in his small boat faces the most difficult fight of his life against an enormous marlin . At the beginning of the short novel , Santiago has lost his fisherman's luck; he has gone eighty-four days without catching a marketable fish. Even his closest friend, a village boy he taught to fish, has left him to work on another boat. The local fishermen make fun of Santiago or feel sorry for him , but he himself remains hopeful and undefeated. Every day he rises early prepares his skiff, and rows , far out into the Gulf Stream in search for marlin. Though ordered by his parents to work on a luckier boat, the boy still loves Santiago , and he visits the old man's simple shack when he can. Once married , Santiago now lives alone in increasing poverty .He has little to eat, and frequently must rely on the boy or others in the village to bring him food and clothing. As they share their meals ,Santiago and the boy discuss baseball and the important players of the period, The old man tells of his early life working on ships that sailed to Africa. When he sleeps, Santiago dreams of being young again and seeing "lions on the beaches in the evening".

The major characters in the novel

1- Santiago :

- Santiago is a memorable figure , possessing admirable qualities .
- He is poor peasant fisherman , thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck.
- The skin bears brown blotches , and his hand reveal deep creased scars from handling heavy fish on the cords.
- Everything about him , except his eyes , refers to his old age.
- He is so poor to buy food for himself and his shirt has been patched and reached . Such details arouse feelings of sympathy for the old man.

2- Manolin

Manolin is the young boy, Manolin is Santiago's friend and companion, who follows Santiago. Manolin symbolizes the youth of Santiago and the disciples of Jesus. And also he symbolizes the responsibility of youngers upon the elders. When the old man would look at Manolin he would see himself at a younger age. Manolin symbolizes the disciples of Jesus. Manolin gives his care towards the old man and that represents the youngers who look at the elders of the society. —I must have water here for him, the boy thought, and soap and a good towel. Why am I so thoughtless? I must get him another shirt and a jacket for the winter and some sort of shoes and another blanket .

Q/ Discuss the role of the boy (Manolin) in this Novel •

It is clear that the figure of Manolin is a very important element in the novel. It is also true that his portrait we learn little of the boy –there is an absence of those details , which make him a particular Cuban boy.

- Manolin acts as a youthful reflection of the qualities of Santiago . He appears to share the same faith, the same humility and the same selfness with Santiago .
- Manolin acts as a metaphor for all that is best in youth. The rigor and confidence and hopefulness show's by the boy are qualities , which the old man knows to be important and which he seeks to revive in himself.
- Manolin acts an important element in the religious context of the novel .In the old man and the sea the religions element bodies more than orthodox concept of religion.
- Santiago is religious in the sense that he acts in accordance with a code of conduct , which is clear and satisfying to him .
- Manolin acts as important element in the structural unity of the narrative . He is present , in spirit at difficult moments in the narrative and his presence influences the action in all over the novel.