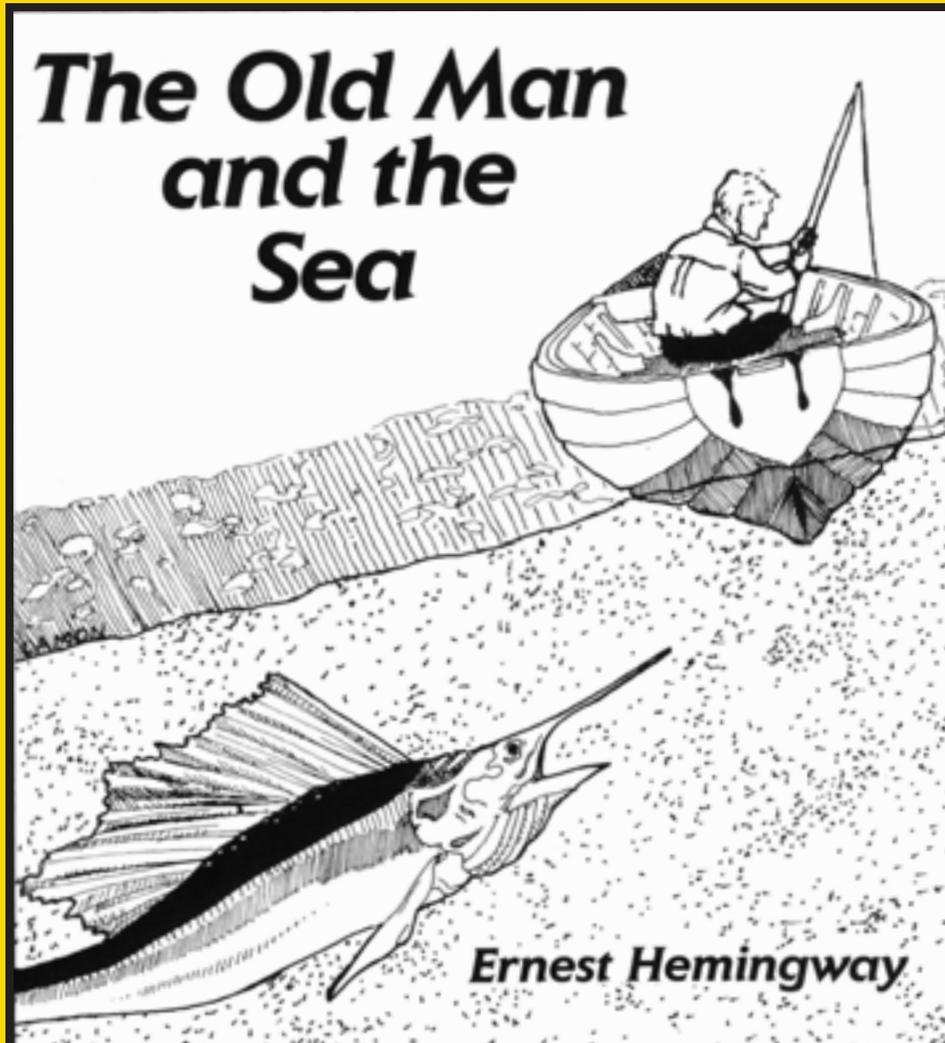


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with a specific novel. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Joe DiMaggio

Joe DiMaggio was born November 25, 1914, in Martinez, California. He played for the New York Yankees from 1936 to 1942 and then again from 1946 to 1951.

DiMaggio possessed many records and received many honors while playing in the Major Leagues. He holds the major league record for the longest consecutive-game hitting streak with 56 in 1941. He shares both the major league record for most home runs in one inning on June 24, 1936 and the modern major league record for the most triples in one game on August 27, 1938. In 1939, *The Sporting News* named him Major League Player of the Year. During the 1941 season, he led the American League outfielders with the most double plays, and earned the Most Valuable Player award for the American League in 1939, 1941, and 1947. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955. DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in 1941 remains one of baseball's most cherished records and has stood for more than 60 years.

As a young player he teamed with Lou Gehrig to lead some of the best Yankee teams ever. As an older player he formed a powerful lineup with Johnny Mize and Yogi Berra. When he retired, young star Mickey Mantle arrived to fill his shoes. Baseball fans soon realized that no one would ever accomplish that. According to many eyewitnesses, DiMaggio was the best all-around player of his time. He could hit, throw, field, and run.

In an amazing life as an American icon, DiMaggio was briefly married to Hollywood star Marilyn Monroe. Joe DiMaggio died on March 8, 1999 in Hollywood, Florida.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? When and where do you think it takes place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. **Social Studies Connection:** Locate Cuba on a map of the Caribbean. Consider how its geography might affect its economy and way of life. Do some research to learn about life in Cuba before the Castro revolution. What were its economic conditions? What were the different ways people earned their livelihood? Then compare that to life in Cuba today. Has its economy improved? Has the life of its citizens improved?
3. Read brief excerpts from some of Hemingway's other books, such as *A Farewell to Arms* or *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Notice the characteristics of Hemingway's style, such as the terse prose, the uncomplicated sentences, and the directness of his writing. As you read *The Old Man and the Sea*, notice how this writing style enhances the story.
4. **Science Connection:** Find photos or line drawings of marlin, different types of shark, and albacore. Do some research to find out about their habits and where they can be found.
5. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Work with a cooperative learning group to discuss the concept of "courage." What constitutes a courageous act? Is it courageous to do battle in war? To hunt for deer or elephant or lions? To fish for shark or whale? To fly an airplane? Try to reach consensus within your group to each of these questions and any other questions on the topic of courage you may generate.
6. A classic definition of tragedy is a dramatic work dealing with a serious theme, typically that of a noble person whose character is flawed by one weakness, such as pride or envy, which causes him to break a divine law and which inevitably leads to his downfall. Relate this definition to any reading you may have done (e.g., *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*). Keep this definition in mind as you read the book in order to determine whether Hemingway meant this book to be a tragedy and the old man to be a tragic hero.
7. Because Santiago, the main character in this book, has often been compared with Jesus, consider what is known about His life. Consider His humility, His martyrdom, the part of His life as a fisherman, His crucifixion, and the stigmata. Think about this as you read the book to determine whether a parallel may be drawn between Santiago and Jesus.
8. This novel about man's relationship to the sea abounds with nautical terms. Become familiar with these terms in the glossary on page four of this study guide.
9. Read the brief biography of the famous baseball player Joe DiMaggio on page three of this study guide. As you read the book, determine why the protagonist idolized this baseball player.
10. Read the Author Information on page two of this study guide and do some research to learn more about Ernest Hemingway. As you read *The Old Man and the Sea*, try to determine how the author's life experiences affected his writing.