

Summer Reading Project – 8th ELA

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

This summer, you will read *The Old Man and the Sea* and complete a creative project based on Santiago's journey, character, and virtues. As you read, think carefully about the challenges Santiago faces and the choices he makes. This assignment is designed to help you think deeply, creatively, and personally about the novel.

Essential Question

What gives Santiago dignity, even in defeat?

Your Task: The Santiago Artifact Project

You will create an original artifact (a meaningful visual representation) that symbolizes Santiago's journey in the novel.

Your project should show: your understanding of the novel, your interpretation of Santiago's character, and your analysis of one important virtue or character trait.

Step 1: Choose a Central Virtue or Trait

Choose ONE trait to focus on throughout your project.

- perseverance
 - courage
 - pride
 - humility
 - resilience
 - discipline
 - hope
 - determination
 - dignity
 - loneliness
 - wisdom
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Step 2: Create an Artifact

Your artifact should represent Santiago's journey, struggles, and growth. You are encouraged to be creative and original.

You may choose one of the following creative formats:

- illustrated timeline
- map of Santiago's journey
- poster with symbolism
- mixed-media art project

Step 3: Include the Required Elements

Your project **MUST** include:

1. Three Direct Quotations

Choose 3 important quotations from the novel.

For each quotation: cite the page number, explain what it reveals about Santiago, and connect it to your chosen virtue or trait.

2. Three Symbols or Objects

Include at least 3 symbolic objects/images that represent important ideas from the novel.

Examples:

- the marlin
- the sea
- lions
- the skiff
- the sharks
- Santiago's hands
- baseball/Joe DiMaggio

For each symbol: explain what it represents, and why it matters to Santiago's journey.

3. Written Reflection (1 page)

Attach a typed reflection answering the following questions:

- Why did you choose this virtue or trait?
- Which moment in the novel best represents Santiago's character?
- What does Santiago learn by the end of the story?
- Do you consider Santiago successful? Why or why not?
- What can modern readers learn from Santiago?

Use specific evidence from the novel.