

# The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway (1952)

Santiago had gone 84 days without catching a fish & was very poor. Manolin was a very caring boy he taught to fish, checked in on him & made sure he had food & bait. He went out farther today & saw a bird diving for fish. He dropped his bait at 40, 75, 100 & 125 fathoms. Dolphins were chasing bait fish to the surface. He caught a 10 lb Albacore. Dolphins & flying fish are his brothers at sea.

At noon, 100 fathoms down a marlin took his bait & he slowly let out line but keeping it in tension. The big marlin towed him out to sea. He had to cut loose his other lines. He wished the boy was with him. He ate the Albacore for strength. A jerk in the line cut his right hand, then his left hand cramped. He put canvas over his back to protect him from the line across it.

The fish jumped out of the water & it was 2' longer than his 16' skiff. He told himself he must not let the fish learn his strength. The more line the fish pulled out, the more drag would drain his energy. The sun was rising for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time at sea when the fish started to circle. It took all his strength to slowly pull the fish in & harpoon him. He hit the heart so there would be less fight, but the blood attracted sharks.

He tied him to the side of his boat [the 1500# fish would have sunk the boat if he could somehow get it aboard]. & set sail for home. He would get paid \$320 for this fish & save his reputation as a fisherman. The 1<sup>st</sup> shark [Mako] hit within an hour. He hit him between the eyes [brain] with the harpoon. But the shark took a 40# bite before he died. Now there was more blood in the water & he lost his harpoon.

Two hours later two sharks [shovel-nosed] came. He stabbed one with his knife tied to an oar & killed it. The other did damage from below before he could finally kill it. They took 25% of the best meat. He broke his knife on the next shark. Two more [galanos] came at sunset. He clubbed them. By midnight a pack came & it was useless. They picked the bones clean.

He sailed into harbor & everyone was asleep. He dragged the boat & skeleton out of the water. He had to stop 5 times before he got to his shack & fell asleep. By sunrise the other fishermen could see what was left of the giant fish & the boy checked in on the old man. He gave him food & coffee talked about the next fish they would catch.

Quote: "First you borrow. Then you beg." (EH)

## Definitions:

18- oakum = fibers from old ropes used to caulk seams of boats

24- fathom = 6 feet

29- carapaced = bony shield

30- gripes = influenza

42- cordel = rope

51- ptomaine = decayed cadaver meat

52- skiff = one-person boat

66- maw = jaws

87- dentuso & galanos = type of shark