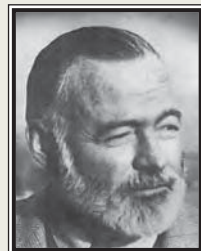


Introduction

海明威

Ernest Hemingway
(1899–1961)



Ernest Hemingway was an American novelist from Illinois. His earliest short stories, published in his high school newspaper, demonstrated his gift for storytelling. After graduation from high school, he decided to skip college and got a job working for a local newspaper as a journalist.

In 1918, Hemingway joined the Red Cross to participate in World War One. He was wounded on the Italian front and came back home. He then went to Europe as a foreign correspondent. While in Europe, Hemingway spent time with many famous writers, and he continued to write.

In 1923, his first book, *Three Short Stories and Ten Poems* was published. *A Farewell to Arms*, which came out in 1929, was essential to gaining him his literary reputation as a novelist. Published in 1952, *The Old Man and the Sea*, which describes an old fisherman's lonely struggle to catch a giant fish, received great critical acclaim. This novel was awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

Ernest Hemingway died in July 1961. His death from a gunshot wound was considered to be a suicide. Hemingway is regarded as one of the 20th century's greatest writers.

The Old Man and the Sea exemplifies the spirit in life that Hemingway admired, described, and pursued. The story is about an old fisherman who finally catches a giant marlin after weeks of not catching anything. However, sailing homeward with the fish, he encounters sharks that devour the marlin's meat. By the time he returns to the harbor, only the skeleton of the fish is left.



This simple story's plot doesn't contain any big symbolism or great philosophy. Hemingway just vividly described a joyous triumph won in a relentless, agonizing battle, by using the story of an old man who would never cease his struggle.

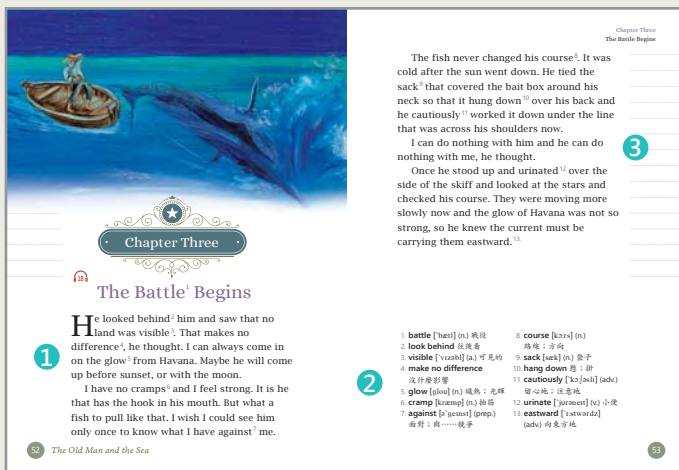
As the old man says in the book, "A man can be destroyed but not defeated." The old man naturally tries hard to keep the giant marlin he has hooked and his epic endeavor exemplifies Hemingway's ideal that indomitable courage is the eternal triumph of the human spirit.

With simple and powerful language, Hemingway depicted the spirit of the fisherman and the dynamics of life. *The Old Man and the Sea* is praised as a crowning achievement for best exhibiting Hemingway's belief that although your life is a fight and defeat is the ultimate outcome, the dignity you will win during your struggle is a triumph worthy of respect.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

本書使用說明



1 Original English texts

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

2 Explanation of the vocabulary

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

3 Response notes

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

Audio Recording

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.



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Before You Read



Old Man

I have been a fisherman all my life. I am old now, but I am still strong and determined. I am a master fisherman.

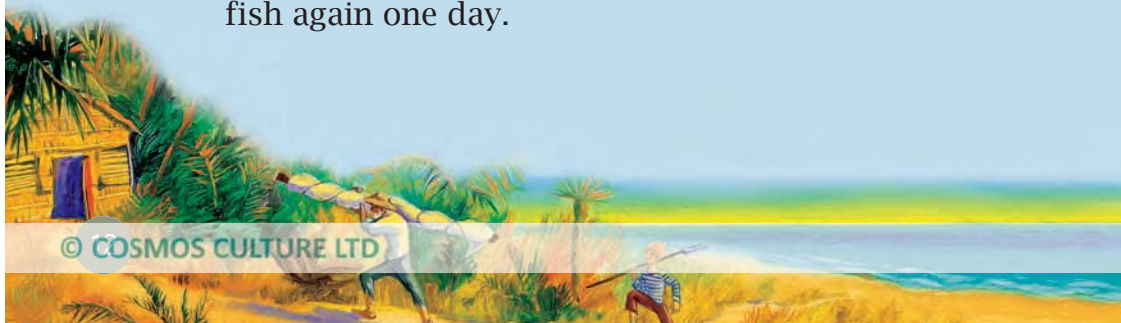
That means I have a lot of knowledge about how to catch a fish. However, I have not caught a fish for many weeks. I know that I will catch a fish soon. So I go out in my boat every day and put out my fishing lines.



Boy

I live in Havana, near the beach with all the other fishermen. I learned how to fish when I was very young. The old man taught me everything I know about fishing.

He is a great man, but my parents think he's unlucky. I believe he will catch a great fish again one day.





bow
船首

harpoon
魚叉

stern
船尾

fishing gear
釣魚用具

thole pin
(船邊) 槳座

cast net
漁網

skiff
小型帆船

mast 帆柱
oar 船槳
gaff 魚叉

fin 鰭

dorsal
背部的

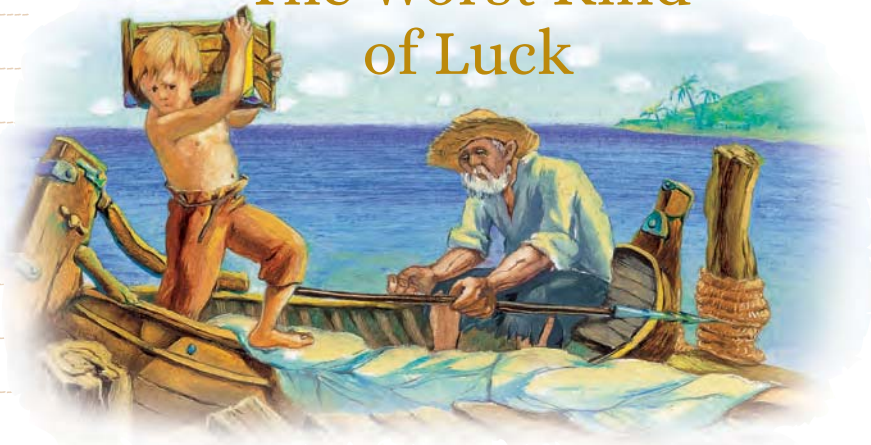
pectoral
胸部的

sardine 沙丁魚
marlin 槍魚
jack 小梭魚
bonito 鰹魚
shark 鯊魚

Chapter One



The Worst Kind of Luck



He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff¹ in the Gulf Stream² and he had gone eighty-four days without catching a fish.

During the first forty days without a fish the boy's parents had told him that the old man was now definitely³ *salao* — the worst form of unlucky. The boy's parents had ordered him to go in another boat, which caught three good fish the first week.

1. skiff [skɪf] (n.) 輕舟；小艇

2. the Gulf Stream

墨西哥灣流

3. definitely [ˈdefɪnətli] (adv.)
無疑地；確定地

4. gaff [gæf] (n.) 搭鉤

It made the boy sad to see the old man come back each day with his skiff empty. He always went down to help him carry the lines, or the gaff⁴ and harpoon⁵ and the sail patched⁶ with flour sacks⁷, so that when it was furled⁸, it looked like the flag of permanent⁹ defeat¹⁰.

The old man was thin and gaunt¹¹ with deep wrinkles¹² on the back of his neck and deep scars on his hands from handling lines of heavy fish. The dark spots of the benign¹³ skin cancer that the tropical¹⁴ sun brings were on his cheeks. His scars were as old as forgotten memories.

Everything about him was old except his eyes. They were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated.

5. **harpoon** [hɑːrˈpuːn]
(n.) 魚叉

6. **patch** [pætʃ] (v.) 補釘

7. **flour sack** 麵粉袋

8. **furl** [fɜːrl] (v.) 捲起

9. **permanent** [ˈpɜːrmənənt]
(a.) 永恆的；永遠的

10. **defeat** [dɪˈfi:t] (n.) 挫敗

11. **gaunt** [ɡɔːnt] (a.) 消瘦的

12. **wrinkle** [ˈrɪŋkl] (n.) 皺紋

13. **benign** [biˈnaɪn] (a.) 良性的

14. **tropical** [ˈtrɒːpɪkl]
(a.) 熱帶的



“Santiago,” the boy
said to him, “I could go
with you again. We’ve made
some money¹.”

The old man had taught the boy to fish and
the boy loved him.

“No,” the old man said. “You’re with a lucky
boat. Stay there.”

“But remember how you went eighty-seven
days without fish and then we caught big ones
every day for three weeks.”

“I remember,” the old man said. “I know
you did not leave me because you doubted².”

1. **make money** 賺錢

2. **doubt** [daʊt] (v.)

懷疑；不相信

3. **obey** [əˈbeɪ] (v.) 服從；聽話

4. **faith** [feɪθ] (n.) 信念；信任

5. **offer** [ˈɑːfər] (v.) 給予

6. **Terrace** [ˈterəs] (n.) 露台

7. **stuff** [stʌf] (n.) 東西



“It was papa who made me leave. I am a boy
and I must obey³ him.”

“I know,” the old man said. “He hasn’t
much faith⁴.”

“No, but we have. Haven’t we?”

“Yes. Can I offer⁵ you a beer on the Terrace⁶
and then we’ll take the stuff⁷ home.”

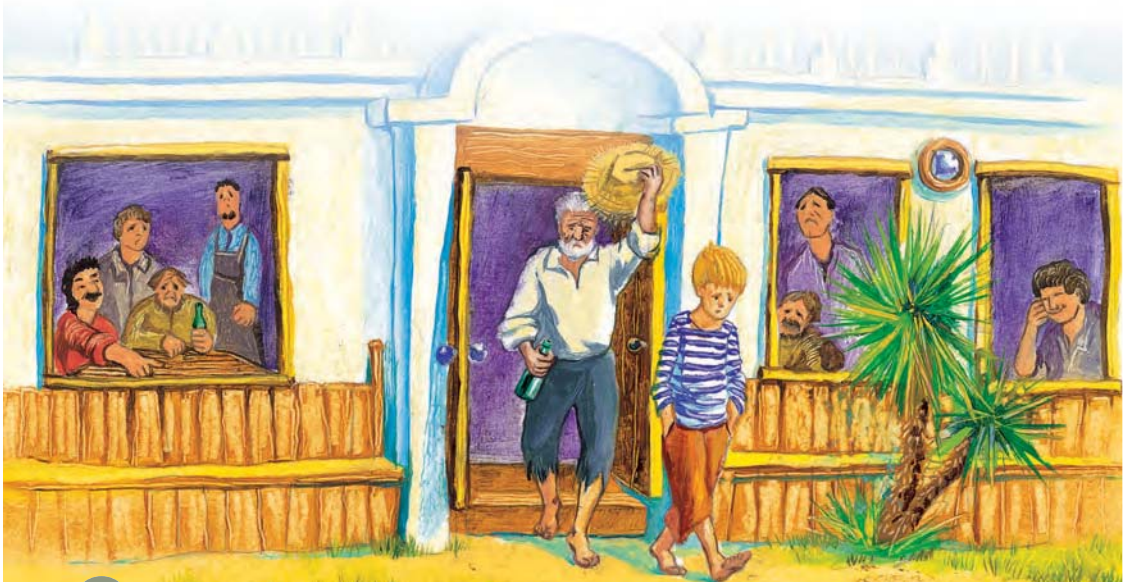
“Why not?” the old man said. “Between
fishermen.”



They sat on the Terrace and many of the fishermen made fun of¹ the old man, but he was not angry. The older fishermen looked at him and were sad, but they did not show it.

The successful fishermen of that day had already butchered² their marlin³ and carried them to the ice truck that would take them to the market in Havana⁴.

Those who had caught sharks had taken them to the shark factory on the other side of the cove⁵. When the wind came from the East a smell came from the shark factory.



Understanding the Story

Hemingway and *The Old Man and the Sea*

When Hemingway wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*, he was an old man himself. His previous novel was not a good book. But *The Old Man and the Sea* was instantly a huge success.



The simple, clear language Hemingway used to describe an old man's determination to succeed one more time appealed to many readers all over the world. Some people think that Hemingway was writing about himself, as a writer who wanted one more big success.

Many other people believe Hemingway based the character on Gregorio Fuentes, a Cuban who worked for the author. Fuentes was the captain of Hemingway's fishing boat, the Pilar, when Hemingway lived in Cuba.

However, Fuentes once told a reporter a different story. One day he and Hemingway were sailing on the Pilar when they saw an old fisherman. This man was in a small boat and had a large fish tied to the side. Hemingway told Fuentes he wanted to write about the fisherman.

Perhaps Hemingway combined parts of himself, his friends and people he saw to create the main character. After all, that could be why the story appeals to so many readers: the old man represents all men who struggle, determined to win just one more time.