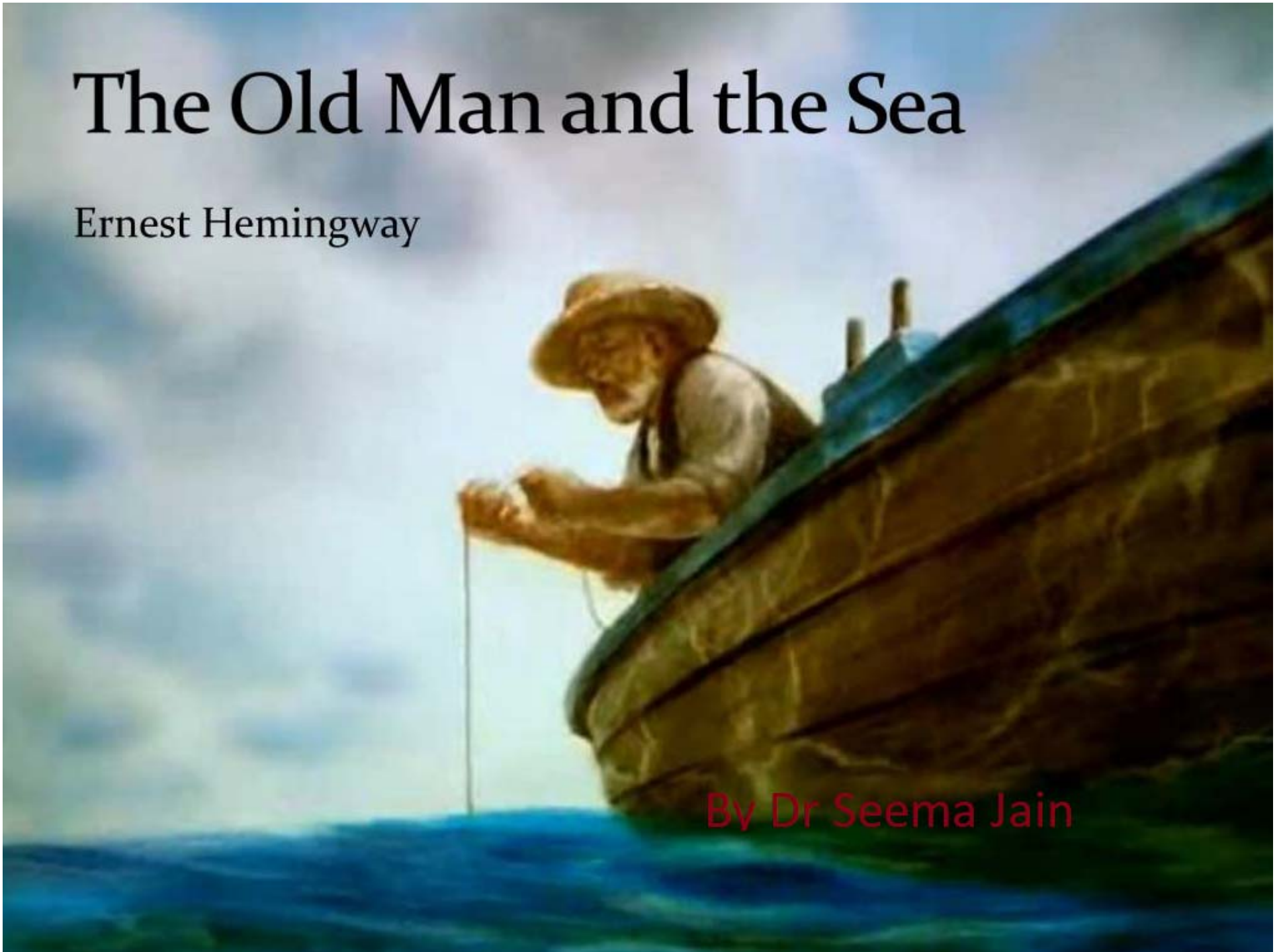


# The Old Man and the Sea

Ernest Hemingway

By Dr Seema Jain



# Author

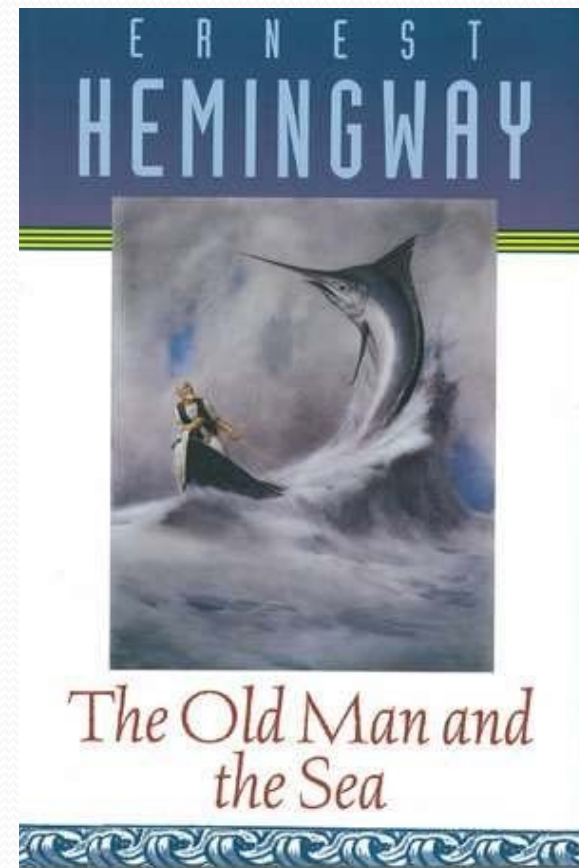
## Background

- Ernest Hemingway  
1898-1961
- Was born to an affluent family in Chicago
- Began writing in high school
- Became an ambulance driver during World War I in Italy

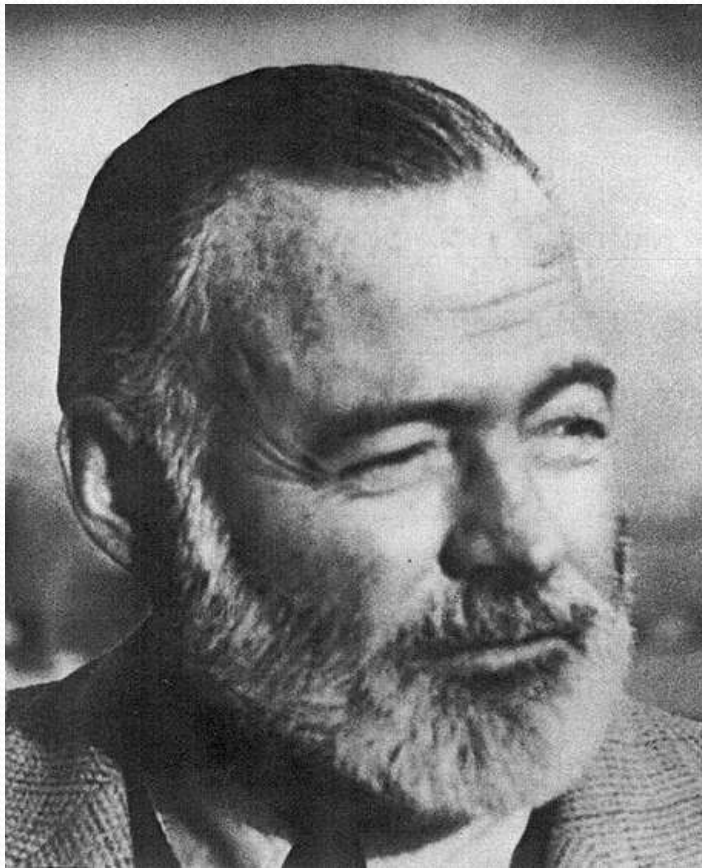




- He lived in Cuba while writing *The Old Man and the Sea*
- *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in full by Life magazine and sold all 5.3 million copies within 48 hours



# Hemingway's Accolades



- May 1953:  
Hemingway wins a Pulitzer Prize for writing *The Old man and the Sea*
- October 1954:  
Hemingway wins the Nobel Prize in Literature
- He is known for his Code Hero, a man who is stoic and stays strong against sometimes unbeatable odds.



# Literary Elements

- A novella
- Setting (time and place)
  - A Cuban village near Havana
  - Mostly set on the sea in the Gulf Stream
- Characters
  - **Santiago**—Old Cuban fisherman
  - **Manolin**—The boy who is Santiago's friend
  - The giant marlin (symbolic)
  - The sharks (symbolic)
  - The sea (symbolic)
  - Joe DiMaggio (symbolic)

# Point of View

- Third Person
- The narrator describes the characters and events objectively.
- The narrator often provides details about Santiago's inner thoughts and dreams.

## TONE/STYLE

- Hemingway uses a journalistic, matter-of-fact, tone and style.
- The monotonous tone of the novella matches the sensations of Santiago (alone) in the boat being dragged to sea.
- Hemingway implores understatement throughout.





# PLOT OVERVIEW

- *The Old Man and the Sea* is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life
- On eighty-four days without success, Santiago, an aged Cuban fisherman, sets out to sea and returns empty-handed.
- The old man used to be accompanied by a boy who is no more with him because of his failure but the boy truly respects him and cares for him
- One day on his venture to the sea he expertly hooks the fish, but he cannot pull it in. Instead, the fish begins to pull the boat.



# Themes

## Endurance and Struggle:

- Santiago finds the marlin worthy.
- This admiration brings respect and honor to the struggle.
- “Because I love you, I have to kill you.”
- Santiago is destroyed but never defeated.
- He emerges as a hero.





# SYMBOLS

## THE SEA:

- The major symbol is the sea, which stands for all of life on which humankind must sail.
- In both the sea and in life, there are a number of possibilities that lie hidden from the common eye; some are gifts to be treasured and some are problems to be defeated.

# Symbols



## The Lions:

- Santiago associates the lions with his youth.
- Suggest a circular nature to life.
- Santiago imagines the lions, fierce predators, playing which suggests harmony between the opposing forces – life and death, love and hate, destruction and regeneration.



# Symbols



## The Marlin:

- represents the ideal opponent.
- Santiago feels fortunate to be matched with such an opponent.
- brings out the best in Santiago: his strength, courage, love and respect.
- The marlin can also be seen as one of life's treasures to be found and fought for---something to strive for (family, education, accomplishment)

# Symbols

## The Sharks:

- Gracelessly attack the marlin (Santiago's brother).
- Contrast the beauty and nature of the marlin.
- The sharks themselves are portrayed as malevolent creatures and **symbolize the deadly forces of evil that reign in nature and life.**



# Autobiographical Elements in the Novel

- There is an unmistakable autobiographical element in the novel.
- Prior to the publication of The Old Man and the Sea, he had been having difficulty with his writing. Between 1940 and 1950, he published no novels. When he finally published "Across the River and into the Trees" in 1950, Hemingway was criticized severely for falling below his usual standards.
- It was obvious he was in a "literary drought," much like Santiago's own round of bad luck in fishing. When he published The Old Man and the Sea in 1952, it was his prize, his giant fish. It was also a fitting reply to his critics, who eagerly tore his writing apart; the critics are obviously symbolized by the sharks in the novel.

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

## SANTIAGO

- Santiago serves as a metaphor for the creative artist, someone like Hemingway himself.
- His knowledge of the sea and its creatures, and of his craft, is unparalleled
- Santiago always dreams of the lion which signifies his youth when he was the champion of the village
- Santiago is a Yankee fan and of the Great DiMaggio





# manolin

- Manolin signifies the new generation here
- Manolin has utmost love and respect towards the old man so he represents a perfect companion
- Because of his father, this boy leaves the old man but at the end of the story the boy decides to go fishing once again with the old man
- His dedication to learning from the old man ensures that Santiago will live on.

# Joe DiMaggio

- DiMaggio, the partially handicapped baseball player, who often figures in the old man's waking thoughts, as well as in his dreams. DiMaggio inspires him with leadership qualities and the determination to win, in spite of handicaps. When his left hand cramps and he feels drained of his strength, the old man reminds himself of the painful bone spur that handicaps the great DiMaggio. The image of the baseball hero playing in pain gives Santiago renewed vigor and stamina to bear his own pain





# Important quotations

- *He no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of places now and of the lions on the beach. They played like young cats in the dusk and he loved them as he loved the boy.*



# conclusion

- All of the symbols employed by Hemingway add to the basic theme that life is an endless struggle with illusory rewards. In order to gain nobility in life, a person must show bravery, confidence, courage, patience, optimism, and intelligence during the struggle. Then, even if the prize is lost, the person has won the battle, proving himself capable of retaining grace under pressure, the ultimate test of mankind.



# Major Themes in the story

- Pride
- Success
- Heroism



# Theme Summarized

- It's not in the winning or losing (in life) that matters, it is how you play the game.
- Hemingway's comment or opinion about "life" is that to be heroic, you must overcome life's obstacles with dignity, decency, and courage so that even if you are destroyed, you are not defeated.

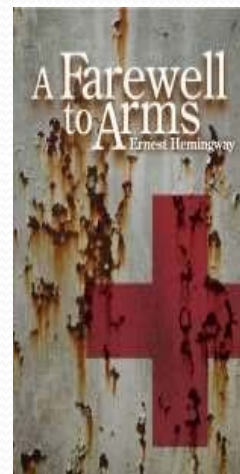
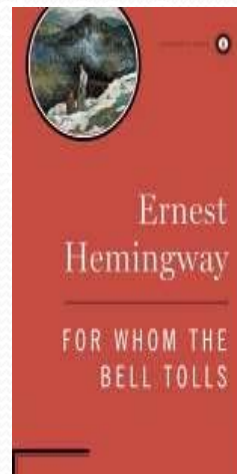


# At last: Moral of the story

- “A man can be destroyed but not defeated”

# About the Author:

- Born in Oak Park, Illinois, United States
- Began writing for newspapers following High School Graduation.
- Served in World War-I







# Main Characters



## Santiago (The Old Man)

The novella's central character. A dedicated fisherman who taught Manolin everything he knows about fishing.





## Manolin (The Apprentice)

A young man from the fishing village who has fished with Santiago since the age of five and now cares for the old man.



# Marlin

An eighteen-foot bluish billfish and a catch of legendary proportions.





# Sharks

The scavenger sharks that destroy  
the marlin.

# Values and Themes

- The novella explores several themes, but its Santiago's determination, endurance and perseverance. Despite everything that goes wrong that stand out.
- Exploration of the pride and suffering.
- Santiago's friendship with Manolin showcases a relationship between a student and teacher, respect one for elders and the need for human companionship.



# Take Away

- A man does not depend on luck.
- Man and Beast Are More Similar Than We Think (In a Good Way).
- A man bears pain and hardship without complaint.
- A man's legacy comes from maintaining his integrity.
- A man is not made for defeat (Or as Hemingway puts it: "A man can be destroyed but not defeated").



# Screen Adaptations





Oscar Nominated 1958 Live  
Action Flick Oscar Winning  
1999 Animated Short Film

**The Old Man and the Sea**, short heroic novel by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1952 and awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It was his last major work of fiction. The story centres on an aging fisherman who engages in an epic battle to catch a giant marlin.



Ernest Hemingway (right) with Joe Russell (raising a glass), an unidentified young man, and a marlin, Havana Harbor, 1932. *Ernest Hemingway Photograph Collection/John F. Kennedy Presidential Library*



## Summary


The central character is an old Cuban fisherman named Santiago, who has not caught a fish for 84 days. The family of his apprentice, Manolin, has forced the boy to leave the old fisherman, though Manolin continues to support him with food and bait. Santiago is a mentor to the boy, who cherishes the old man and the life lessons he imparts. Convinced that his luck must change, Santiago takes his skiff far out into the deep waters of the [Gulf Stream](#), where he soon hooks a giant [marlin](#). With all his great experience and strength, he struggles with the fish for three days, admiring its strength, dignity, and faithfulness to its identity; its destiny is as true as Santiago's as a fisherman. He finally reels the marlin in and lashes it to his boat.

However, Santiago's exhausting effort goes for naught. [Sharks](#) are drawn to the tethered marlin, and, although Santiago manages to kill a few, the sharks eat the fish, leaving behind only its skeleton. After returning to the harbour, the discouraged Santiago goes to his home to sleep. In the meantime, others see the skeleton tied to his boat and are amazed. A concerned Manolin is relieved to find Santiago alive, and the two agree to go fishing together.

## Analysis And Reception

*The Old Man and the Sea* contains many of the themes that preoccupied Hemingway as a writer and as a man. The routines of life in a Cuban fishing village are evoked in the opening pages with a characteristic economy of language. The stripped-down existence of the fisherman Santiago is crafted in a spare, elemental style that is as eloquently dismissive as a shrug of the old man's powerful shoulders. With age and luck now against him, Santiago knows he must row out "beyond all people," away from land and into the [Gulf Stream](#), where one last drama would be played out, in an empty arena of sea and sky. Hemingway was famously fascinated with ideas of men proving their worth by facing and overcoming the challenges of nature. When the old man hooks a marlin longer than his boat, he is tested to the limits as he works the line with bleeding hands in an effort to bring it close enough to [harpoon](#). Through his struggle, Santiago demonstrates the ability of the human spirit to endure hardship and suffering in order to win. It is also his deep love and knowledge of the sea, in its impassive cruelty and beneficence, that allows him to prevail. The essential physicality of the story—the smells of tar and salt and fish blood, the





and water, isolation, and the swelling motion of the sea. And through it all, the narrative is constantly tugging, unreeling a little more, and then pulling again, all in tandem with the old man's struggle. It is a story that demands to be read in a single sitting.

*The Old Man and the Sea* was an immediate success and came to be regarded as one of Hemingway's finest works. It was cited when he won the [Nobel Prize for Literature](#) in 1954. A hugely popular film adaptation starring [Spencer Tracy](#) was released in 1958.