

YOUNG POETS ON HEMINGWAY'S Old Man and the Sea

by Paul McDuffie

These promising poems are the work of sixth-grade students in the Bay Shore Middle School class of English teacher Paul McDuffie, who for years has invited Ernest Hemingway and other masters into his classes of youngsters to keep their soaring imaginations aloft and help them to harvest and be nourished by the best that is planted and grows within the limitless fields of our magnificent language. [ed.]



LOVE OF THE SEA

Fishing takes determination and love of the sea,
and when magic mixes in, the light shines on me.
Each day is different, yet the goal is the same,
and today may be a day I get all the fame.

Today I get off to a brand new start,
being open-minded, with a kind, willing heart.

The breeze pushed against my face,
while the boat moved along at a slow, steady pace.

I saw only ocean with no sign of the shore
Minutes flowed into hours. What did I come for?

Now and then a bird would stop by,
resting on my line as if to say "Hi"!

Just as I decided to call it a day,
my line tore off the reel in an incredible way.

The fish jumped clear out of the water,
like a pig running away from his slaughter.

He fought for his life with all of his power.

I fought this fish for more than an hour.

I had him worn out and next to the boat.

When the line snapped, he looked back as if to gloat.

He won the battle on this beautiful day,
but I will be back without delay.

Kaitlyn Arnold

SANTIAGO

Super strong
A lot of fishing experience

Not a lot of water
Truthful

Ironic old man
Almighty fisherman

God
Occasionally tired

Ryan Brunner



THOUGH ALL IS LOST, I HAVE WON

If the sharks come, I will
Lose everything I worked
Hard for...pride, fish money,
Food and much more.

I've been at sea for three days
And will try to fight off the sharks
in many ways. Oh gee, the
shark's ripped off the marlin's tail.

My brother, I am sorry for
Going out this far; for you it's
like jail. When I reach Havana
they will see just the fish head,
but I have my pride
and must go to bed!

Melissa Lopez

THE LAST FIGHT

Splash! Up in the air!
He felt a sudden tug.
Don't give up, don't.
Give more line.

This is more than just a catch.
It's a fight for pride and dignity.
Why?

The sea should be soothing and pure beauty.
Fights like this should never occur.

Why? Why?

Is it because he knows he's big and strong?
Give up! Give, up....

Zachary Romania

DONE TOO

An old man
with cut up hands
was very unhappy
cause fish weren't snapping.

The old man was amazed when a fish took it.
The fish pulled the old man everywhere.

He was crazy,
but soon he got lazy.

Soon sharks smelled blood.

The old man felt a tug.

When the fish was done,
the old man was too.

Casey Taggart

THE DEN OF THIEVES

The ocean housed a den of thieves.

They ate and stole what would've been his,
but with courage and might, he fought this fight
with only scars to remember back at home.

The boy hopes all day, only to see him with
the bones of a fish with him come into the bay.
The boy brought him some coffee to stop his mayday.
That's the Old Man and the Sea.

Evan Rosner



The OLD FISHERMAN

He was an old man, an old fisherman.
He was unlucky, so they thought.
But one day he will catch a fish.

The big fish will be caught.
This one will be my pride, he thought.

No matter what, I will remember it.
It doesn't matter if sharks eat it.

I know I'm gonna catch it.

I won't give up.

I won't give up.

I won't!

Rachel Atiencia

HOPE

He was once beautiful and full of life,
but now on the side of my boat and dead.

Galanos, get away.

He's gone.

All that work for nothing.

Manolin is here and I can look after the storm

For hope.

Emily Lindahl

WIN OR LOSE?

A group of sharks neared
as the old man steered.

He turned and saw the sharks.

He beat them with a club which left deep marks.

They ate the fish from head to tail.

The old man turned back to the sail.

When he hit the shore,
he could hardly stand nor
could he walk.

He kept stopping to talk.

The old man reached his shack and
put the mast on he wall.

He went to his bed and lay down,
which looked like a fall.

Hunter Cronin

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BAD NEWS

The 1,500 pound, 18 foot long fish was fighting for his life
against a man with a cramped hand.
He put up a good fight for three days.
The old man knew he would pay the price.
The old man had more than a fish.
He had bad news strapped to the side of his boat.
The boat was soon to be attacked by sharks.

Shane O'Connor

A LOSS OF WINNINGS

Heading home, a battle won after days of war,
the old man really needs some help, maybe from the boy.
He went out too fat from shore and now rests in the bow.
It's hard to come all this way just to watch sharks chow.
"That's my fish," he thought. "And even my friend!"
Santiago and the fish fought to the very end.
Now reaching shore with nothing left inside,
he lay there thinking, "Thank God I didn't die."

Giana Panariello

A SALAO'S PRIDE

I went out too far...
a mistake
that defeated both of us.
Such a majestic creature
was born to be free.
I am sorry I went out too far,
not only for you,
but for my pride.
A fight that lasted too
long and left you
only bone.
Katie Van Dyke

THE OLD MAN

I went far out to sea.
All that remains is the tail and backbone.
At least four sharks came.
The first one took some.
The last took all
Justice Belton

THE FIGHT

A fight that lasted three days had been won,
But now the hard part was to come.
A pack of Galanos had come near,
but the old man could now show his fear.
He will eat the bonito during the night,
but in the morning, he will have to fight.
Mike Duquette

OLD MAN, OLD MAN

You are old, wrinkly, sunburned and torn.
You are out just until morn.
You sit there and sigh,
waiting for a bite.
You are the old man at sea.
You have caught a marlin huge and rare.
You cannot look without a stare.
You are struggling with a rope to get it in.
You sometimes think of it as a sin.
You *are* the old man at sea.

Tina-Anne D'Agostino

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

I read a story, *The Old Man and the Sea*.
It left a great impression on me.
It's about an old man who caught the fish of his dreams,
but proving himself was more difficult than it seems.
When he finally got the big fish to bite,
he held onto the line with all of his might.
So he and his marlin went on their way,
but the sharks came along and he started to pray.
After the journey – 3 sunsets to sunrise,
he finally reached home, without his great prize.
Believe in yourself; that is the key.
Just ask Santiago, the old man at sea.

Carly Racanelli

THE GREAT FIGHT

He hooked the huge and sharp-billed fish.
Then fought for three long days,
til the third day when he finally pulled it in.
The dentuso came and ate his fish,
til only the tail and backbone remained.
He felt bad for the fish because of this.
He wished he hadn't gone out so far.
All that was left were his bloody hands.

Chris Dannenfesler



UNHAPPINESS

My loneliness on the sea
The fish snapping and eating
The boy over there without me
I'm mad. I'm pulling and beating.
My hand is cramped and I'm hurt.
My wife I forgot under my clean shirt.
Theodore deLyra

The OLD MAN'S HARDSHIPS

Eighty-five days without a fish
To catch just one was the old man's wish.
Then he bit off more than he could chew.
A marlin took his line into the blue.
When he hooked it, he was drifting in the dark.
Then came the last shark.
He wished he had never caught this fish
that had caused him so many hardships.

Wali Mohammad



I NEED TO GO HOME

Three long days out at sea,
Can't wait to be home and sleep.
Just a head and tail to take home
of a friend I loved so much.
How I've missed the boy!
Can't wait to see
He'll be proud of me.
When he sees my hands,
how sad will he be?
I need to go home and sleep.
Anbar Durango

FISH WISH

The old man wants a fish.
That's all he would wish.
The boy isn't there.
The old man thinks it's unfair.
He catches a great big marlin,
a feeling that was foreign.
The sharks eat the fish.
There goes the old man's wish.
He's happy he's back on land.
so he can sleep and rest his hand.
Christopher Imperato

THE OLD MAN'S JOURNEY

The old man went out in the sea.
Too far was the saddening key.
He caught a huge, shiny marlin,
but the sharks left hardly a fin.
It looked like he went home defeated,
but he knew in his heart he succeeded.
Sara Viola