

Hello Eighth Grade Students!

Duncan and I have been busy creating the perfect summer homework assignment for you designed to integrate your literary and scientific skills. This homework is due on Thursday, September 8th.

Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* is regarded as a classic because of its clear and compassionate look at a poor man and his quest for the perfect fish. In the novel the fisherman's interdependent relationship with the sea-- the waves, storms, sun, stars, fish, birds, etc-- is discussed.

Read the novel with an eye open for details. Read as an active observer. **Read looking for the ways in which the old man relies on his powers of observation and his ability to make hypotheses.** Read as if you are listening to the old man tell you all he knows about humans' complex relationship with the sea. Highlight and annotate as you read. Mark the passages that speak to the themes outlined in the paragraph above. When you are finished with the book, you should really know where the fish are, when the waves come, what the weather will be tomorrow.

Horizon Books or Amazon can order the book for you. We urge you to purchase a copy so that you can read it actively, annotating and highlighting as you go.

The Assignment

You are to create and illustrate a **scientific journal or diary**– **AS IF WRITTEN BY THE OLD MAN'S COMPANION, THE BOY** – that clearly expresses, explains, and explores the old man's relationship with the sea. Please see this as a pamphlet that is in some way bound—sewn, stapled, a booklet. You should answer these questions:

1. Describe the ways the old man is dependent upon the sea?
2. Explain how the old man has learned all he knows about the sea?
3. Catalog in what ways the old man constantly makes hypotheses about the sea?
4. Evaluate how effective the old man's powers of observation are and explain how he is dependant upon observation?
5. Analyze the ways human beings are dependent on the natural world and how you yourself experience this complex relationship between humans and the natural world.

You should **quote five passages** from the novel to support your claims. The **illustrations** can be drawn, painted, collaged, computer generated – in addition to the illustrations you should include maps and charts. The text should be clearly written without spelling or grammar errors. The length should be at least 150 words about each topic i.e. at least 750 words, or 5 double spaced paragraphs of text.

If you have any questions phone Shane 231-883-8426 or Spratt 231-883-1095

Enjoy these wonderful days of summer with this great book!