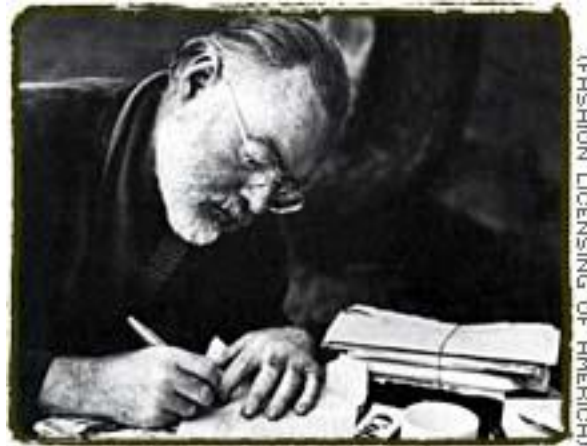


A Novel Study: The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway



Instructor: Donna Macurdy
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Day 1: Agenda

R417–Old Man and the Sea– Fall 2015

1. Announcements: Class Liaison
2. Admin. Stuff: Instructor

Format for class:

Day 1 & Day 2: Lecture: Background Information

Days 3-8: Lecture/Discussion/Viewing

*HANDOUTS: Syllabus/Reading Schedule/Notes View Lecture

2. LECTURE : Instructor Notes on:

– Novel – The Old Man and the Sea

- Characters; Setting; Critical Response; Literary Terms

3. Viewing – Animated Version/Old Man

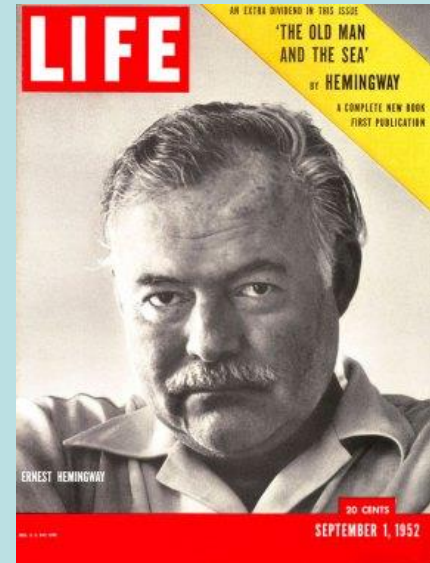
4. Wrap-Up- Online Resources:22 Essential Quotes from novel

The background is a painting. In the lower right, a small wooden boat with a single figure is on a blue sea. In the upper left, a large, dark, winged figure, possibly a shark or a large bird, is flying towards the boat. The sky is a mix of light blue and white. The title text is centered in the middle of the image.

THE OLD MAN
AND THE SEA

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

- **ACTUAL STORY BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT**
 - HEMINGWAY RECORDED THE STORY IN AN ARTICLE FOR GULFSTREAM (1936)
- **1952**
 - AUGUST 28: LIFE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED STORY COMPLETE IN ONE ISSUE FOR TWENTY CENTS
 - SEPTEMBER 8: SCRIBNER'S PUBLISHED THE STORY, IN BOOK FORM, ELEVEN DAYS LATER FOR \$3.00
- **BOOK SOLD OVER 5 MILLION COPIES IN 48 HOURS**
 - LIFE PUBLICATION DID NOT LESSEN DEMAND FOR HARDCOVER
 - FOR 6 MONTHS NOVEL REMAINED ON THE BEST-SELLERS' LIST

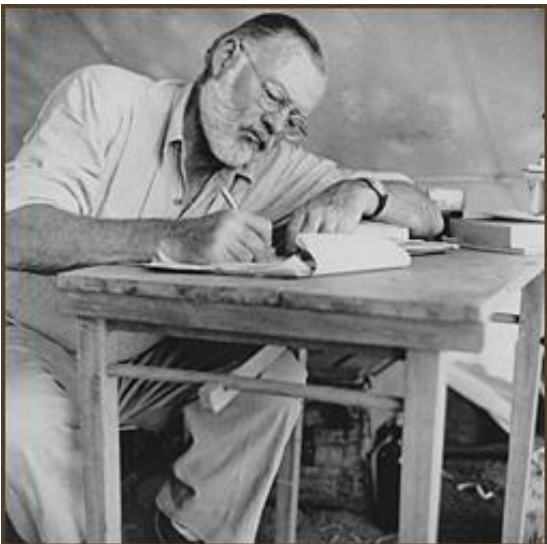


PULITZER PRIZE: 1953

NOBEL PRIZE: OCTOBER 28, 1954

OLD MAN AND THE SEA

For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes, with great luck, he will succeed.



Hemingway upon receiving the Nobel Prize
in literature, 1954

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XCVKYacZJg>

Setting for Novel



Cuban Facts: 11,308,764 (July 2004 est.) (Population)
Area: Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania
Government: Communist state w/14 provinces
1902: Treaty of Paris established independence from Spain
1959: Castro led a rebellion to overthrow existing government

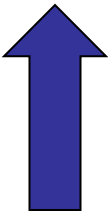


Main Characters



- **SANTIAGO – CUBAN FISHERMAN**
 - Old man of undetermined age; once married
 - A history of bad luck
 - Interested in baseball/gambling
 - Has traveled to Africa
- **MANOLIN – SANTIAGO’S APPRENTICE**
 - A teenager; only five years old when Santiago first takes him out fishing
 - Comes from a family of fishermen
 - Forbidden to go out fishing w/Santiago

THE REAL OLD MAN



Hemingway's Boat Pilar

Hemingway's longtime friend and boat captain, Gregorio Fuentes, was said to be the inspiration for the main character in "The Old Man and the Sea"

Minor Characters

- **MARLIN – SANTIAGO'S GREATEST CHALLENGE**
- **THE SEA – CENTRAL CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL**
- **MARTIN – CAFÉ OWNER IN VILLAGE**
- **PERICO – OWNER OF THE BODEGA WHO PROVIDES OLD MAN WITH NEWSPAPERS/SPORTS NEWS**

CRITICAL RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL

“The Old Man and the Sea” is a short novel, only 27,000 words. It is much simpler and enormously better than Mr. Hemingway's last book, "Across the River and Into the Trees."

No phony glamour girls and no bullying braggarts sentimentalized almost to parody distort its honest and elemental theme.

No outbursts of spite or false theatricalism impede the smooth rush of its narrative.

Within the sharp restrictions imposed by the very nature of his story Mr. Hemingway has written with sure skill.

Here is the master technician once more at the top of his form, doing superbly what he can do better than anyone else.”

(Prescott, The New York Times: Book of the Times)

CRITICAL RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL

- But good as "The Old Man and the Sea" is, it is good only in a limited way. The fisherman is not a well-characterized individual. He is a symbol of an attitude toward life. He often thinks and talks poetically and symbolically and so artificially.
- The old man thought:
- "Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel? She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel and it comes so suddenly and such birds that fly, dipping and hunting, with their small sad voices are made too delicately for the sea."
- A poetic and beautiful thought, but it seems Mr. Hemingway's rather than the old man's.

(Prescott, The New York Times: Book of the Times)

HEMINGWAY'S REACTION TO THE NOVEL'S SUCCESS

"Whatever I learned is in the story but I hope it reads simply and straight and all the things that are in it do not show but only are with you after you have read it . Don't you think it is a strange damn story that it should affect all of us (me especially) the way it does? I have had to read it now over 200 times and every time it does something to me. It's as though I had gotten finally what I had been working for all my life."

- (EXCERPT FROM LIFE ADVERTISEMENT)

HEMINGWAY'S HERO

THE CODE HERO

THE CODE HERO IS A COMMON FIGURE, IN HEMINGWAY'S NOVELS: A MAN WHO LIVES HIS LIFE IN STRICT ADHERENCE TO A SET OF RULES OF CONDUCT.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CODE HERO

- **A CODE HERO IS:**
 - **AN INDIVIDUALIST**
 - **FREE-WILLED**
 - **MAN OF MORALS & PRINCIPLES**
 - **MAN OF FEW EMOTIONS**
 - **MAN OF ADVENTURE**
 - **MAN WHO FACES DEATH AS A RITE OF MANHOOD**

CODE HERO

RULES OF CONDUCT

A CODE HERO MUST:

- 1. PROVE HIMSELF WHEN FACED W/A WORTHY CHALLENGE**
- 2. FOLLOW A PERSONAL SET OF VALUES WHICH ENCOMPASS A NOBLE ACTION**
- 3. GAIN A SKILL IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGE**
- 4. ACQUIRE DETERMINATION, DISCIPLINE, AND OR PERSERVERANCE TO GET THE JOB DONE**
- 5. DEMONSTRATE DIGNITY IN THE STRUGGLE**
- 6. DISPLAY ADMIRATION FOR THE WORTHY OPPONENT**

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON CODE

- 1. HEROES FIND MEANING IN THE CODE.**
- 2. FOLLOWING THE CODE USUALLY INVOLVES STRUGGLE & OFTEN DEATH.**
- 3. WINNING IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN PLAYING THE GAME.**

HEMINGWAY'S TYPICAL HERO

- **TWO HEROES EMERGE:**

YOUNG BOY

- **USUALLY WOUNDED PHYSICALLY & PSYCHOLOGICALLY – MUST UNDERGO THE ORDEAL OF LIFE .**

OLD MAN

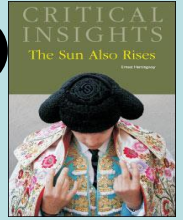
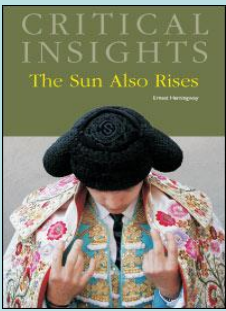
GOES THROUGH PERIOD OF DOUBT; BECOMES FULL PARTICIPANT IN THE CODE.

BOTH ARE:

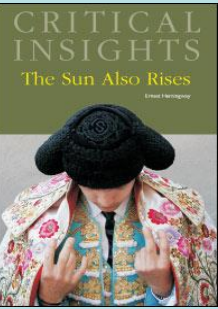
LONERS - OPERATING OUTSIDE OF SOCIETY, FAMILY, & OR COMMUNITY.

Literary Term: Code Hero

Critical Insights

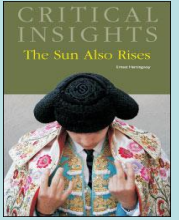


“Hemingway was obsessed with proving manhood throughout his life and work. He developed the Hemingway code, code hero, and Hemingway hero in order to negotiate socially constructed meanings of masculinity, primarily based on heteronormative performance, as well as biologically essential definitions of manliness. But the code, code hero, and hero are not all one and the same: the code hero acts as a mentor, teaching a code that constantly defines and gives meaning to one’s life, to the Hemingway hero. Neither code nor code hero is as significant as the hero’s journey towards an ideal authentic masculine self, to defining his own code and becoming his own hero”



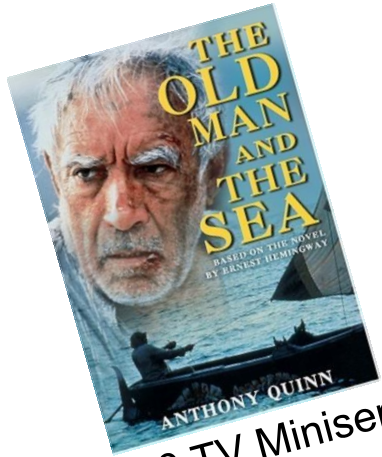
Literary Term: Code Hero

Critical Insights Cont'd



“Hemingway described his hero as “a man who lives correctly, following ideals in a world that is always painful.”— a man who must find meaning by measuring himself against life’s difficulties, by always exerting his individual autonomy in the face of life-altering and –defining forces. To do so he must endure pain without showing emotion; remain free from women and social conventions; and admit the truth of Nada. He is usually marred by a physical wound and/or psychological trauma that symbolizes a character flaw that must be overcome to prove himself. Jake Barnes is a quintessential Hemingway hero striving to “live correctly” despite the hardships caused by his lost manhood” (Shaun F. Richards The College of William & Mary: Shifting Tides, Anxious Borders – Binghamton “Exceptional” American Men April 26, 2014)

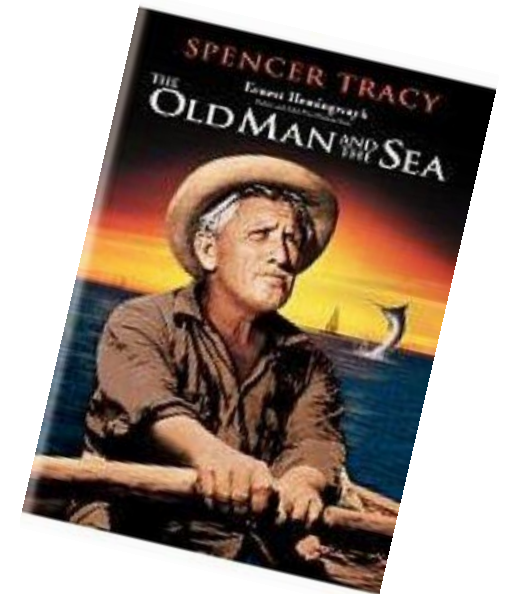
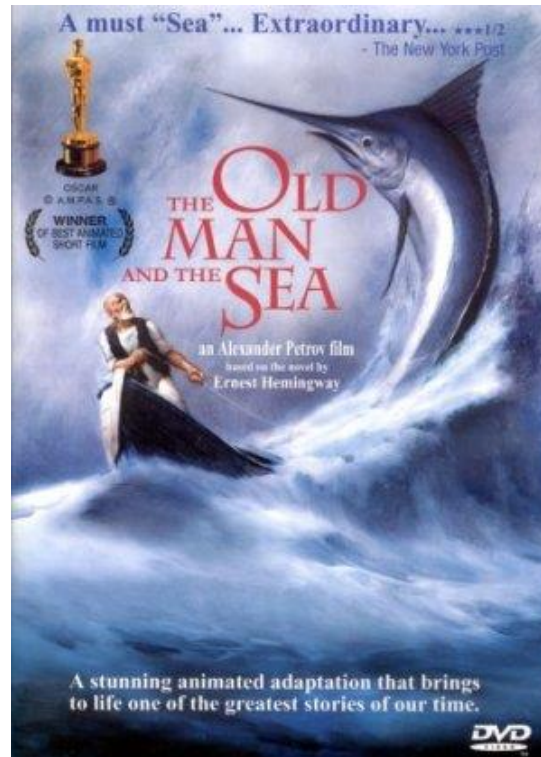
Old Man and the Sea Film Versions



1990 TV Miniseries



2013 Survival Drama

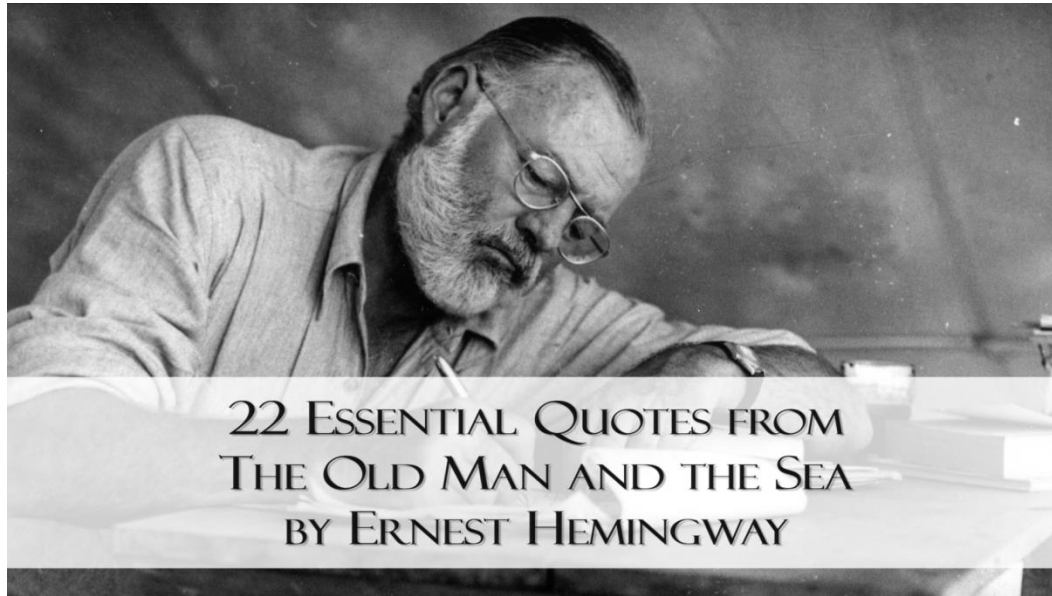


1958 Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMoloiN5aSQ>

Animated Version: Aleksandr Petrov

Online Resource



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1nww4q8RdE>