

The Department of English
Raja N. L. Khan Women's College (Autonomous)
Midnapore, West Bengal

Study Material- 1
On
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
(General Introduction)

For
Course: English Generic
SEM: IV
Paper: GE4
Session: 2019-2020

Prepared by
Atasi Sahoo
Guest Teacher
Department of English
Raja N.L. Khan Women's College (Autonomous)
Date: 22nd April, 2020

❖ Introduction:

The Old Man and the Sea is a short novel or novella written by the American author Ernest Hemingway in 1951 in Cuba, and it was published in 1952. It was Hemingway's last major work of fiction published during his lifetime. One of his most famous works and also one of the most famous in the history of American literature, it voices the story of Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who fights with a huge marlin far out in the Gulf Stream off the coast of Cuba.

In 1953, *The Old Man and the Sea* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, one of the prestigious awards for the literary personae and at the same time, it was chosen by the Nobel Committee as contributing to their awarding of the Nobel Prize in Literature to Hemingway in 1954. This work made him an international celebrity and the novella was selected as the book-of-the-month. The work is based on some very important issues related to life, where survival is something very much important. The echo of Darwinian theory can also be found here. Everyone in this universe is always struggling for existence and the fittest will survive. The conflict between the natural world and human world is the central theme of the novella. And that experience is gathered by Hemingway himself after he met a fisherman like Santiago. Through the main characters, Hemingway wanted to show the human relations also. In the short span of the novella, the novelist proves himself to be a prominent voice that demands to be heard.

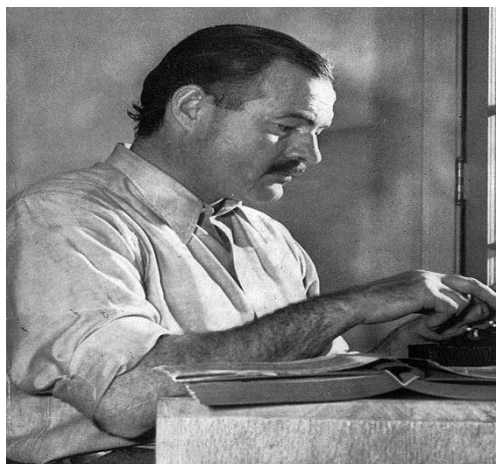
❖ A Quick Glance:

Author	Ernest Hemingway
Country	United States
Language	English
Genre	Literary Fiction
Published	1952
Awards	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1953) Nobel Prize for Literature (1954)

❖ About the Author:

Ernest Miller Hemingway (July 21, 1899 – July 2, 1961) was an American novelist, journalist, short-story writer, and sportsman. His iceberg theory or the theory of omission had a influenced 20th-century fiction rapidly, while the younger generations appreciated and admired his adventurous lifestyle. Most of Hemingway's literary outputs were produced and registered success among the book-lovers in between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Still now his works are praised and appreciated over the years. He published seven novels, six short-story collections, and two nonfiction works. Three of his novels, four short-story collections, and three nonfiction works were published posthumously. Many of his works are considered classics of American literature as they hit at some of the important aspects of life itself. Some larger than life issues are dealt with in his works with full pomp and grandeur.

Being a journalist, he travelled to many places and he had to cover many real events like the Spanish Civil War, World War II etc. but towards the end of his life he always remained insecure and safety and money. He was suffering from hypertension and was admitted to a clinic also. There he was treated with electroconvulsive therapy, as that clinic reports. Three months after his release from that clinic he shot himself with his favourite shotgun in the early morning of 2nd July, 1961. He like Sylvia Plath, another great mind of the history of American literature, ended his life himself. Plath also was suffering from psychological problems and was treated with electroconvulsive therapy and finally committed suicide. Towards the ned of his life Hemingway behaved like his father. This is how one of the great minds of American literature was erased from the world physically. But he will live forever through his creations.



Ernest Hemingway

❖ **A Quick Glance at the Author:**

Born	July 21, 1899 Oak Park, Illinois, U.S.
Died	July 2, 1961 (aged 61) Ketchum, Idaho, U.S.
Notable awards	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1953) Nobel Prize for Literature (1954)
Notable works	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> <i>Across the river and into the Sea</i> <i>To Have and Have Not</i> <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> <i>The Nick Adams Stories</i>

❖ **Reference for Further Studies:**

1. Dutta, Nandana. *American Literature*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2016.
2. Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*. New Delhi: Arrow Books, 1994.
3. Sen, Krishna & Ashok Sengupta. *A Short History of American Literature*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2017