

English II—Summer Reading

The Old Man and the Sea

by Ernest Hemingway

ISBN: 9780684801223



Hemingway’s classic novella is set in the waters off the coast of Cuba, detailing the story of fisherman Santiago’s determination, courage, and fortitude in the face of overwhelming hardship.

This summer, read *The Old Man and the Sea*, keeping in mind characterization, allusion, symbolism, archetype, and theme. When class convenes in August, we will use this text as a lens with which to explore how authors convey *mood* and *tone*, so please keep this in mind as you read.

The novel is short, but rich. On the surface, it is relatively uneventful—a fishing trip goes awry. However, this simple narrative hides complex explorations of the relationship between humankind and nature and of the nature of heroism.

As you read, consider this quotation by Ernest Hemingway concerning his “Iceberg Theory” of writing:

“If a writer of prose knows enough of what he is writing about, he may omit things that he knows, and the reader, if the writer is writing truly enough, will have a feeling of those things as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an ice-berg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water.” –Ernest Hemingway

In addition to this required text, the English department recommends that you read for pleasure as you rest, relax, and enjoy your summer vacation. To that end, here are some suggestions of books you might enjoy this summer!

Adams— *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*

Adeyemi— *Children of Blood and Bone*

Alcott— *Little Women*

Anderson— *Speak*

Bradbury— *The Martian Chronicles*

Bronte, Charlotte— *Jane Eyre*

Bronte, Emily— *Wuthering Heights*

Butler— *Parable of the Sower*

Cather— *My Antonia*

Chbosky— *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Christie— *And Then There Were None*

Clarke— *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*

Doctorow— *Little Brother*

Dumas— *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Green— *Paper Towns*

Green— *The Fault in Our Stars*

Haddon— *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Hansbury— *A Raisin in the Sun*

Keyes— *Flowers for Algernon*

Kingsolver— *The Poisonwood Bible*

Lockhart— *We Were Liars*

Mandel— *Station Eleven*

Miller— *Circe*

Orwell— *Animal Farm*

Plath— *The Bell Jar*

Pullman— *The Golden Compass*

Rand— *Anthem*

Salinger— *The Catcher in the Rye*

Spiegelman— *Maus*

Tan— *The Joy Luck Club*

Thomas— *The Hate U Give*

Tolstoy— *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

Walls— *The Glass Castle*

Weir— *The Martian*

Zusak— *The Book Thief*

Questions? Or perhaps suggestions to add to this list? Contact Mr. Gooch at

sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org