

# AP Seminar English 10 Summer Assignment

Saunders Trades and Technical High School

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## Exploring Literary Themes and Devices in the novella *The Old Man and the Sea* and Short Story Analysis

Summer Assignment Overview: Welcome to the AP English Seminar Summer Assignment! This summer you will embark on a literary journey delving into Ernest Hemingway's classic novella The Old Man and the Sea and a short story of your choice. This assignment aims to enhance your analytical skills, deepen your understanding of literary techniques, and prepare you for the rigor of AP English. It may be best to purchase The Old Man and the Sea book from Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble so you can write in it, as you will need to annotate. If this becomes a difficulty, you may borrow the book from Saunders and use sticky notes (post-its) to annotate. All short stories listed are available in PDF form online, simply download or print out.

On Mrs. Holibaugh teacher page on the Saunders web site there is an article link "How to Annotate" which should be read first.

### **Part 1: The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway**

1. Read and annotate the novella The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway.
2. As you read, take detailed notes on:
  - Characters: Santiago, Manolin, the marlin
  - Themes: Perseverance, the nature of success, the struggle between man and nature
  - Literary devices: Symbolism, imagery, metaphors, indirect characterization, external/ internal conflict, setting, irony
3. Using text-based evidence from the book, students will be asked to write a four-paragraph analytical essay exploring one of the following prompts IN CLASS ONLY (no writing from home will be accepted) in September 2024:
  - a. How does Hemingway use symbolism to convey deeper themes in The Old Man and the Sea?
  - b. Discuss the significance of the relationship between Santiago and the marlin in the novella.
  - c. Analyze Hemingway's use of imagery and language to depict the battle between man and nature.

## Part 2: Short Story Analysis

1. Choose ONE short story from the provided list (pdfs are available online):
  - "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
  - "A&P" by John Updike
  - "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe
  - "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
2. Read and annotate in detail your chosen short story.
3. Students will be asked to complete an IN CLASS comparative analysis between their chosen short story and The Old Man and the Sea focusing on:
  - Possible themes of: Loneliness, the human condition, society's expectations, madness, winning
  - Narrative style: First-person vs. third-person narration, or unreliable narrator
  - Symbolism and imagery: How are symbols and imagery used to convey meaning in both works?

Students should be prepared to demonstrate critical thinking, depth of analysis, and clarity of expression. Be prepared to discuss your analyses and insights during the first week of class. Bring your annotated texts when requested to support your conclusions. Note: Enjoy the process of exploring these rich literary works, and don't hesitate to reach out at [wholibaugh@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:wholibaugh@yonkerspublicschools.org) if you have any questions or need clarification.

Happy reading and analyzing!