

# THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA: MOVIE VERSION

**Study Guide compares the novel *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway to the movie version *The Old Man and the Sea* (1958) starring Spencer Tracy. Directed by John Sturges. Warner Brothers.**



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## **SAMPLE THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA: MOVIE VERSION**

### **THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Ernest Hemingway**

**RECOMMENDED MOVIE:** *The Old Man and the Sea* (1958) starring Spencer Tracy. Directed by John Sturges. Warner Brothers.

### **HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?**

Plot: ★★★★★☆ Characters: ★★★★★☆ Setting ★★★★★★

Structure: ★★★★★★ Symbols: ★★★★★☆ Theme: ★★★★★☆

### **THE MOVIE: SUMMARY**

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

### **THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1**

**OPENING SCENE:** The surf washes in on the beach of a fishing village near Havana, Cuba around 1950. (**ACCURATE**) A narrator reads passages from the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. Santiago is an old and expert fisherman who has been fishing in the Gulf Stream all his life. (**ACCURATE**) Everything about him is old except his eyes which are blue like the sea. (**ACCURATE**) The sail on the old man's skiff is patched with flour sacks like a symbol of permanent defeat. (**ACCURATE**)

Santiago has not caught a fish in 84 days. (**ACCURATE**) A boy named Manolin had been going to sea with him for the first 40 days. (**ACCURATE**) Santiago had taught the boy how to fish and the boy loved the old man. (**ACCURATE**) When the old man caught no fish Manolin's, father forced him to go on another boat because the old man had *salao*, meaning the worst kind of bad luck. (**ACCURATE**) The crew of Manolin's new boat caught three fish the first week. (**ACCURATE**)

Manolin still helps Santiago unload his boat at the end of the day. (**ACCURATE**) Santiago always takes the sail with him to protect it from the dew. (**ACCURATE**) No one would steal the rest of his gear which he leaves in the skiff. (**ACCURATE**) Before they go home to the old man's shack, Manolin asks Santiago if he can treat him to a beer at the Terrace restaurant. (**ACCURATE**) Manolin walks up to the bar and says "Two beers Martin, please." (**ERROR:** In the book Manolin does not say this to Martin, the restaurant owner) A young girl stands behind the bar. (**ERROR:** Not in the book)

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**QUIZ**

**This quiz compares the movie *The Old Man and the Sea* (1958) starring Spencer Tracy to the novel *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.**

- \_\_\_\_ 1. The opening scene of the movie and the book shows a fishing village in 1950 near  
a. Havana, Cuba   b. San Juan, Puerto Rico   c. Tampico, Mexico   d. Key West, Florida
- \_\_\_\_ 2. In the movie and the book everything about Santiago is old except his  
a. back            b. legs            c. hands            d. eyes
- \_\_\_\_ 3. In the movie and the book Santiago is so poor the sails on his boat are patched with  
a. duct tape      b. flour sacks      c. pillowcases      d. napkins

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