The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

This summer you will be reading one of Hemingway’s most well-known novels, the last of his books published before his death that also received the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. Hemingway’s novels are known for their succinct, direct prose about protagonists with great courage and conviction. Though alarmingly simple, Hemingway’s novels run deep with symbolism and allegory. You will need to annotate – underline and make notes in your book. We recommend you purchase the book rather than use library copies. Annotation within your book will help you in class discussions and writing assignments that we will be working on at the start of school. Also, it is a good idea to read the book and do the assignment in July, so you do not forget the material once school starts in August.

- As you read, jot down questions that come to mind in the margins of the book along with other annotation about theme, imagery, symbolism, figurative language, and diction (word choice). You need not answer these questions but may pose them during class discussions. (*More help with annotating is on back.*)

- **DURING and AFTER** reading the book, complete **ALL three** of the following tasks (A, B, and C). *For Task A, create a KEY or LEGEND for the four items and their corresponding colors.* As you color code these items during reading, jot your ideas, comments, or questions about your noticings.

**TASK A:**
- *The Old Man and the Sea* proposes several themes – underlying ideas about the human condition. Using one of the below suggested themes or one you develop yourself, note **eight (or more)** places where theme is apparent through action, dialogue, or setting. **MARK THESE IN YELLOW.**
  1. Courage in the face of defeat.
  2. Pride as a motivating force.
  3. The role of friendship
  4. Man’s relationship with nature.

- The protagonist’s journey on the sea, the setting of the story, seems to represent the journey of a hero. Locate and annotate **four examples** of this journey that support this motif. Locate and read information about the literary hero’s journey to do this. **MARK THESE IN BLUE.**

- Hemingway employs several symbols in his work, using animals, religious allegory, dreams, and the protagonist’s hands. Choose **one** of these symbols and note its appearances and evolution throughout the novel. Consider its meaning in the work. **MARK THESE IN RED OR PINK.**

- Lastly, when new characters are introduced, **mark any important phrases** that describe them or **note things they say or that others say about them** that reveal something important about the character. **MARK THESE IN GREEN.**

**TASK B:**
Once you have read and annotated the novel, complete the assignment below:
**Draw a map of the protagonist’s journey.** Include at least seven significant events in chronological order. Use 8 ½ X 11 unlined paper. Indicate the title and author of the novel at the top. Illustrate the events (draw pictures), and label each picture with a fitting word or phrase. No pencil. Use color, and take pride in your work.

**TASK C:**
Hemingway wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* shortly before his death. Locate, read (annotate) and print an article (be sure to capture the source citation) about his life and death. Compare his biographical information with the book and consider the relationship between them. Write your thoughts in a paragraph.

**Bring your annotated book and the two assignments for a grade the first day of class. They are due the first day of school.**

If you have questions about this assignment, please contact Mrs. Kenjura-Brooks at ckenjurabrooks@dickinsonisd.org or Ms. Jolliff @ djolliff@dickinsonisd.org. Thank you for your desire to be in the exciting world of Pre-AP English.
**Annotation Tips for Fiction**

- Make brief notes at the top of the page or on a sticky note to mark important plot events.
- Circle or highlight unfamiliar or unusual words. Try to figure out what the words mean.
- When new characters are introduced, highlight descriptive phrases. (Try not to highlight whole sentences).
- Mark words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern throughout the text AND highlight passages you think might be symbolic.
- When you get an idea while reading, note it in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
- If you have a question about something in the text, write it in the margin. Use ?
- **Don't mark too much.** If you mark everything, nothing will stand out. Use your own words-- don’t try to be fancy. Remember, your annotations are for you!

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**Sample Annotation**

![Sample Annotation Image]