

4.5 THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA: BOOK REVIEW

WARMING UP!

1. Pair up with your partner and answer the following questions:

(1) Which animal would you relate to yourself and why?

Ans. I would relate to a cat. This is because like a cat, I am lazy. I am also reserved and do not show my emotions easily. I choose my friends carefully and am not friendly with anybody and everybody.

(2) Do you have a hero or a role model to look up to? Who is he/she?

Ans. Yes, my role model is my grandmother. Though she has led a very difficult life because she was poor, she is always optimistic and sees the best in people. She is always cheerful and ready to learn new things. She has learnt how to use the computer and surfs the internet regularly. She is even learning a new language with the help of the computer! She is health conscious and does yoga regularly. I wish to be like her.

(3) Do you have a passion you would fight for? Why?

Ans. Yes, my passion is planting trees. Afforestation is the answer to many of the ills plaguing our country, like water shortage and soil erosion. Planting forests will stop this. When I grow up, I plan to fight for a green cover for our planet.

(4) What is meant by a 'Review'?

Ans. A review IS critical evaluation of something a book, a film, a play, etc.

(5) Have you ever read any book review? If yes, which one? If no, when are you going to read one?

Ans. Yes, I have read a book review. It was of a Harry Potter book. I read it in a newspaper and it gave me an idea of what to expect in the book, without knowing the details.

2. Make a list of famous novels by Ernest Hemingway

Ans. (1) A Farewell to Arms.

(2) For Whom the Bells Toll.

(3) The Sun also Rises.

(4) The Garden of Eden.

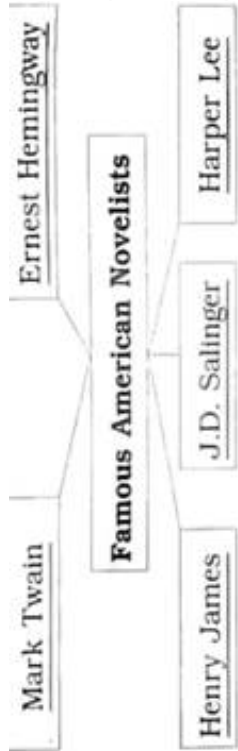
(5) Islands in the Stream

(6) To Have and Have Not.

(7) The Torrents of Spring.

3. Ernest Miller Hemingway was a famous American novelist, short story writer and journalist. Make a list of other famous American novelists. Complete the web filling the boxes with the names of famous American novelists.

Ans. (Rotate your phone)



English Workshop

1. Read the following and Name the following:

(1) Young and devoted apprentice

Ans. Manolin

(2) The place where Hemingway had experience of fishing

Ans. Cuban waters

(3) Hemingway was injured by this during the First World War

Ans. shrapnel

(4) Language of the novel:

Ans. simple and pithy

(5) In his first reading, the reviewer was left:

Ans. Moved and impressed

2. Correct the following sentences using facts from the review:

(1) Manolin's parents insisted on his working with the same old fisherman.

Ans. Manolin's parents insisted on his working with another fisherman.

(2) This novel is pure fiction

Ans. This novel is based on real events and draws heavily from Incidents in Hemingway's own life.

(3) Hemingway's style of writing does not unfold hidden meaning.

Ans. Hemingway's style of writing is such that a reader can read his work again and again

and find new layers of meaning every time,

(4) The relationship between the old man and Manolin is coarse.

Ans. The relationship between the old man and Manolin is heart-warming

3. Compare the points that you used for a book review with the review of a play and write in your notebook.

Ans. *(Students do it your own)*

4. The line - I first read this novel years ago, when I did not understand it at all and was left unimpressed. This line tells us about the book reviewer's opinion about the book.

Complete the following sentences using the expressions.

(1) In my opinion every hardworking person achieves success in life.

(2) I strongly feel that there should be a complete ban on tobacco.

(3) I wish I could go to the moon.

(4) As far as I know, you have never taken part in a debate.

(5) I think they know what they are doing.

5. The review describes the struggle between the old man with the marlin and sharks, Ernest Hemingway's struggle against defeat or death and noble struggle against destruction. Find all the words from the text that are related to the word 'brave or "courage'.

Ans. 1. Strength 2. Endurance 3. Determination 4. Persistent 5. Noble

6. The review mentions struggles of both the writer Ernest Hemingway and the old man. Fill the incidents of struggles of Hemingway in table A and old man in table B.

Table A	Table B old man
Ernest Hemingway	(1) has a run of terrible bad luck
(1) injured by shrapnel during the First World War	(2) unable to catch fish for 84 days
(2) faces the destruction caused by the two World Wars	(3) his apprentice, Manolin leaves him
	(4) the marlin he hooks is too strong for him
	(5) battles with sharks
	(6) very near death

7. Read the text again. You will find that the Mext contains many phrases. Match the phrases in 'A' and their meanings in B'. After matching their meanings, make Sentences of your own. (to see the diagram layout refer Pg. 177)

Ans. (1) run of terrible bad luck - a period of time when bad things happen

(2) draws heavily on - makes use of

(3) struck a chord - triggered a feeling or memory

(4) in spite of - without being affected by a particular factor

(5) holding on - enduring in difficult circumstances

8. A Rewrite as directed, without changing the meaning:

(1) Hemingway's novel is based on real events. (Convert the underlined adjective into an adjectival clause.)

Ans. Hemingway's novel is based on events which are real.

(2) He hooks a marlin but the marlin is too strong for him. (Rewrite beginning with 'Although...')

Ans. Although he hooks a marlin, the marlin is too strong for him.

(3) Being strong, the marlin starts pulling the boat. (Rewrite inserting and as a coordinator.)

Ans. The marlin is strong and starts pulling the boat.

(4) The reader can read his work again and again and find new layers of meaning, (Begin the sentence with 'On reading....')

Ans. On reading his work again and again, the reader can find new layers of meaning.

(5) As the novel progresses, the old man and the marlin are inseparably linked. (Rewrite using 'progress' as a noun.)

Ans. In the course of the progress of the novel, the old man and the marlin are inseparably linked. (Rewrite using 'but' as a coordinator.)

(6) When I first read this novel. I was unimpressed.

Ans. I had read this novel before but I was unimpressed the first time.

(B) Write the 'root-word' after dropping the prefix or suffix or both.

(1) unable: able

(2) heavily: heavy

(3) determination: determine

(4) endurance: endure

(5) unimpressed: impressed

(6) relationship: relation

(7) inseparably: separate

(8) empathetic: empathy

(9) beautiful: beauty

(10) simplicity: simple

9. Write a book review on any book of your choice with the help of following points: (1) Storyline

(2) Social/Historical Context

(3) Writing Style

(4) My Thoughts.

Ans. Pride and Prejudice: Book review.

Story Line:

'Pride and Prejudice' is a romantic novel written by Jane Austen and first published in 1813. The book follows the life of Elizabeth Bennet, a headstrong, intelligent woman. It takes place in the early 1800s and is about the emotional development of the main character.

Elizabeth has four sisters and no brother. According to the succession rights, none of the girls can inherit the property, and Mrs. Bennet (Elizabeth's mother) thinks that good marriages are the only way for them to lead a good life. Her main ambition in life is to see that her daughters marry wealthy men. However, the novel emphasizes that one should marry for love and not only for money. Mr. Bennet tolerates his wife's behaviour and is dryly sarcastic when she is silly. There are villainous characters like George Wickham and comic ones like Mr. Collins.

Social/Historical Context: In *Pride and Prejudice*, the Bennets are members of the educated upper middle class. At that time, a man's income was always reported as a number of pounds per year. Mr. Bingley has 'four or five thousand a year' while Darcy's income is a very impressive 10,000 a year. Thus, Darcy is considered to possess a fortune, and hence a very eligible bachelor.

The formal manners of behaviour are obvious in the custom of paying visits and leaving calling cards, the necessity of giving formal introductions, etc. Marriage was considered to be the only acceptable role for any woman, and getting married was high on the list of priorities. The clothes and customs all reflect the time. The French revolution was in progress during the time of the writing of this novel. Though it is difficult to relate to such customs and such priorities today, the novel still holds our interest.

Writing Style: Jane Austen has threshed out her characters well, and given good character sketches of all, whether it is the silly, materialistic Mrs. Bennet as the mother or Elizabeth as the strong-willed daughter. Her writing is sharp, with plenty of sarcasm and irony. Many times it is a bit too detailed; but that was the style of writing at that time. She wrote about ordinary people and their ordinary lives in an exceptional way. She recognized the flaws in society, especially as far as marriage is concerned. The opening words of her novel, 'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.', are unforgettable and are still quotes.

My Thoughts: When I first read it, it was out of compulsion: it was a part of our school activity, and I disliked it. I was too small to appreciate the undertones. I found too many unnecessary details. However, when I read it a few years later, I had already read many other books based in that time period. Hence, I would appreciate their customs, their dresses and their way of talking. I had also seen a film based on it, and things became clearer. I plan to read it again and see if I can find new meaning in it now.

10. You know the essential points required for a book review. Find the essential points required for a play review and a film review. You can take the help of your teacher, the library or the Internet.

Ans.

Book Review	Review of a play
(1) Storyline	(1) Story Line, Theme and Climax
(2) Social/Historical Context	(2) Actors/Actresses and their

	Presentations
(3) Writing Style	(3) Use of lights, music and special effects
(4) My Thoughts.	(4) Use of Sets, Costumes and Make-up
	(5) My Thoughts and rating.

(table continued here)

Review of a film
(1) Story Line
(2) Acting
(3) Direction
(4) Editing
(5) Cinematography
(6) Music and sound effects
(7) Special effects
(8) My thoughts and rating

11. Project

Classroom Library:

Ask all your classmates to donate a book each to the class. In this way everyone will have a book of his/her own to read. Read the book in a week or two. After reading it, exchange your book with your classmate. Keep exchanging and reading books for the whole year. Every fortnight give the book review of the book that you have read recently in the form of presentation.

Ans. (Students do it your own)