

# **The old Man and the Sea**

***Ernest Hemingway***

1. Summary
2. The author
3. Why I read this book and what impressed me

## **Summary:**

The novel is about an old fisherman. He has no luck anymore and hardly catches any fishes. A boy who learned fishing from him had to leave him and work on another boat.

One day the old fisherman, a great baseball and Joe DiMaggio fan, goes far out in the Gulf. He is lucky and a big Marlin takes his bait.

But although the old fisherman isn't weak, he can't pull the fish into his boat.

So the fish pulls the boat for two days out on the sea. The Marlin is a danger to the old man's life but he isn't angry or afraid of dying but he respects the fish. The old man is wounded because he struggled to keep the line tense, but he doesn't give up. On the third day he, totally exhausted, manages to kill the Marlin. He ties him to his boat and dreams about the money he would earn. But on his way back home sharks attack him. He kills many sharks but can't prevent them from eating the whole Marlin, just leaving its skeleton.

Back home the other fishermen look with respect at the great skeleton. The old man lost the fight against the sharks but at least the boy returns to him.

## **The Author:**

Ernest Miller Hemingway (\* 21st of July 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois; † 1961 in Ketchum, Idaho).

He started writing as a journalist, but always was an adventurer. So he went in 1918 to Italy to serve as a first aid man in World War 1. As a journalist he also went to the Greek-Turkey War and the Spanish Civil War.

He was often injured and suffered from depressions. This led to his alcoholism.

Ernest Hemingway's work is dominated by his war experiences. He always wanted to tell more than the obvious. After he suffered a long time from an illness he shot himself with his favourite rifle, he loved to hunt with. He was awarded the Noble Price for *The old Man and the Sea*.

## **Why I chose this book and what impressed me:**

A book just about one man and a fish, which wins a Noble Price, this made me curious.

Ernest Hemingway, an alcoholic who was always ready to "visit" another war impressed me, too. I thought this book would be some kind of Anti-War book but it isn't.

In an objective way he writes about the epic fight of a man against a huge animal. For the old man his life is an endless struggle. At the end he loses, because the sharks steal the meat of the Marlin.

The fact that he did struggle, that he did try to win against the fish and the sharks, even when the Marlin pulled him out on the sea proofs that he is a brave man. He doesn't give up and so he earns the respect of the boy and the other fishermen.

Hemingway writes this in an very moving way, and just after the first pages you can't stop reading any more