

Theme of Survival and Optimistic Elements in Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea'

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Abstract: The Old Man and the Sea' is a simple story consisting of only three characters Santiago, an old fisherman, Marlin, a huge fish and the minor character Manolin, a small boy. The whole story revolves around former two characters Santiago and Marlin. It shows the three days epic battle between a giant fish (Marlin) and a helpless old man (Santiago) who is struggling with his misfortune. After 84 days of bad luck Santiago is able to catch marlin on 85th day but she was not an ordinary fish. She was bulky enough to overturn Santiago's boat on the other hand Santiago was determined he will win over Marlin by hook or by crook. How Hemingway blended this beautiful story with the theme of struggle, survival and optimism is briefly explained in this article.

Keywords: Optimism, Giant, Companionship, Existence, Overturn and by hook or by crook.

1. Introduction

The Article starts with this quotation- "A Man can be destroyed but not defeated" said Santiago, this line indicates the strong will power of a man who is facing defeat again and again in his life. He had already lost his interest in life but still waiting for something good.....

Ernest Miller Hemingway, the writer of this novel was an American journalist who published most of his work between the mid- 1920 and the mid-1950. He won Nobel Prize in literature in 1954. His most of the works are considered as classics of American Literature. At the age of 18 Hemingway received Silver medal of bravery for rescuing the Italian soldiers. He has to go through failed marriages and career in his life only his writings brought fame to him. In 1960 he was suffering from mental illness. He shot himself with his favorite shotgun in the early morning hours of 2 July, 1960.

Article contain following points,

1. Santiago, an old fisherman struggling with his bad luck of not able to catch the fish for 84 days.
2. It covers the epic battle between Santiago (an old fisherman) and Marlin (a giant fish) that took place on 85th day.
3. It highlights the theme of survival in the novel
4. It also reveals the psychology of an old person during the last days of his life.
5. Some notable and important quotations are taken from the novel they are:

"I will stay with you until I am dead" this determination of

Santiago proves that human being always possess the inner capacity of achieving something great in his life.

"I hope he doesn't know there is only one man against him, an old man" This line of Santiago Proves that during the last days of his life, man only wants peace.

References

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- [5] Enjoy an adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's classic American short story "My Old Man and the Sea".