

Old man in the sea by Ernest Hemmingway Paper

In the short story "The old man in the sea" by Ernest Hemmingway the moral or theme of the story is to do what makes you happy and to not care so much about what other people think.

At the beginning of the passage the narrator informs us that the boy's parents believe the old man was *salao*, or unlucky. They believed the old man was so unlucky that they ordered their son, the boy, to another boat that was more fortunate. The boy did not believe this about the old man. In fact, it made him sad to see the old man come in each day with no fish. It made the boy so sad that each day he went to help the old man carry the coiled lines, the gaff and the harpoon, as well as the sail.

Towards the center of the story, the old man plans to go further out than normal to hopefully catch a one-thousand pounder. The old man claimed the 85th day was the fortunate day, as 85 was a luck number. The boy offered to join the old man on his journey. He refused, even though he enjoyed the boy's company and even taught him how to fish. The old man knew that if the boy came with on the lucky 85th day, and indeed they did bring in a good-sized fish, the villagers would give all the credit to the young boy and no one would believe that the old man had caught the lucky fish after all. The old man was destined to prove himself to the village, so much in fact that he sacrificed what truly would have made him happy.

In the middle of the passage, the old man had been carried out to sea when he underestimated the strength of a mighty fish. The old man held on to the fish's line for days, slicing and severing his hands. He did not want to let go of such a great catch. He had come all this way and he could not give up. The old man held on tightly, suffering through the pain. He knew he was growing weak and lonely. The old man wished the boy had come along after all.

At the end of the passage, the old man returns to the village after being gone for days at sea. Yes, he had caught the lucky catch, but the fish was too large for the old man to bring into the boat. He

had tied the fish to the side of the boat in the water. Allowing it to be feasted upon by sharks. By the time the old man returned, all that was left of the fish was the head and skeleton. The old man was weak and could barely breath. His hands were cut, his back was strained and just about every muscle in his body was cramping. He had proven himself to the villagers, but he was threatening his health and happiness.

When the boy saw the old man in so much pain, he broke down in tears. The boy was devastated to see him like this. He regretted not going with the old man all those times his parents insisted him go on the lucky boat. The young boy realized that he should have followed his heart and went with the old man.

"The old man in the sea" by Ernest Hemmingway was a great story that inspired the theme of doing what makes you happy and to not care so much about what other people think. Both the young boy and the old man learned to follow their heart. The young boy learned to not care so much about what his friends and family think about him fishing with the old man. The old man learned not to get so caught up in all the gossip of the villagers. They both should follow their heart and do what makes them healthy and happy.