Old Man and the Sea 1

1. What does the book suggest about the sea? Is it a benign force or an evil one?

2. Discuss the function of the boy in the narrative. Why do you think Hemingway decided to pair the old man with, not another old man but a boy?

3. Though we know the names of the characters, the narrator calls them the old man and the boy for the most part. How does this influence the narrative?

4. Can *The Old Man and the Sea* be considered a tragedy?

5. Can *The Old Man and the Sea* be associated with naturalism?

6. What does the old man feel about the fish?

7. Is the ending optimistic or pessimistic?