

Name:

Date:

*The Old Man and The Sea*  
**Incoming Freshman Summer Reading Assignment**

**Part One:** Read the novella carefully and answer the following questions on this piece of paper. All responses must be written neatly by hand in blue or black pen. This assignment is due and collected for points on the first day of school. You will be taking a test on the novella on the first day as well.

- 1) How long has the old man gone without catching a fish?
- 2) Why did the boy's parents tell him he couldn't fish with the old man any more?
- 3) What is the old man's name and what does he look like?
- 4) What baseball team does the old man like and who is his favorite player?
- 5) What does the old man dream about?
- 6) Why does the old man like the flying fish?
- 7) Why do some fishermen call the sea "El Mar"? What does the old man call the sea and why?
- 8) What are two things the old man does to stay healthy? When did he begin talking to himself?
- 9) Why does the old man begin to pity the fish? Why does he want the fish to jump?
- 10) What does the old man eat to get his strength back? Why doesn't he feel alone at sea?
- 11) What does a fishing line slanting in the water mean? Describe the marlin.
- 12) What three things does the old man consider "brothers"?
- 13) Why wasn't the old man worried about the weather or about getting lost at sea?
- 14) How many circles did it take before the old man saw the marlin? How is he planning to kill it?
- 15) Why did the old man feel the fish had a perfect right to kill him? Who was successful in the end?
- 16) How much does the old man guess the fish weighs? How much money does he think it is worth?

- 17) Why didn't the old man need a compass to find his way home? How did he know there would be a breeze?
- 18) Why did the shark attack the fish? Why did the old man finally lose hope? What things did the old man use to fight off the sharks?
- 19) Why does the old man wish he never caught the fish? What were his thoughts as he sailed home?
- 20) In your opinion, is the old man a winner or a loser? Explain your response.

**Part Two:** In the novella the old man calls the fish his "friend" and his "brother." He often compares himself to the great fish. Fill in the Venn diagram below to show how the two characters are alike and how they are different.

