The Old Man and the Sea Study Questions IV

Use your own paper and answer each of the following questions in complete, detailed sentences. Use adjectives and words right out of the novel. Page numbers are also good to include. After each answer, skip a line before answering the next question.

1. The marlin is finally beginning to tire. As it begins to circle the skiff and come closer, Santiago realizes it is so huge that it is longer than the skiff. It also has strange things swimming around it. What are they, and how big are they? (90)
2. What does Santiago say which shows that he is physically and mentally exhausted and is becoming unclear in the head?
3. As the marlin circles the skiff, Santiago grabs the harpoon. What happens after the old man finally harpoons the fish?
4. Why doesn't Santiago put the marlin into his boat?
5. Santiago refers to the business of getting the marlin lashed to the skiff as “slave work”. Explain why.
6. Who does Santiago think would be proud of him after he gets the fish lashed to the boat?
7. Santiago hoists his sail to head home, but how does he know which way to sail?
8. How does he get something to eat?
9. What physical evidence does the old man have of his long, hard fight with the marlin?
10. What brings the shark towards Santiago's boat?
11. Go to pages 100-101 and use words from the book to describe the way the Mako shark looks and the way Santiago knows it will behave. Also tell what Santiago thinks is ugly about that kind of shark.

12. Santiago prepares for the arrival of the shark by grabbing the harpoon. What does Hemingway mean when he says that the old man harpooned the shark with “resolution and complete malignancy”?
13. Santiago manages to kill the shark, but what valuable item does he lose?
14. What does the old man fear since the shark had taken about forty pounds of flesh off the marlin?
15. What does Santiago mean when he thinks that man is not made for defeat?

16. On pages 103-104, why does Santiago compare himself to DiMaggio while harpooning the shark?
17. Knowing he will face more sharks, what makeshift weapon does Santiago come up with?
18. What does Santiago think about giving up hope?
19. After killing the Mako shark, what does Santiago eat?
20. Santiago utters the word ”Ay” when he sees the shovel-nosed sharks are coming. What two vulnerable spots does Santiago hit on the first brown shark?
21. What happens when the shovel-nosed shark comes and Santiago stabs it in the brain with his makeshift harpoon?
22. The sharks return at sunset after Santiago loses his makeshift harpoon. How does Santiago battle the sharks?
23. By nightfall of the third day, Santiago expects to see the lights of Havana, but he doesn't. What worries Santiago as he returns to Cuba in the night?
24. What does the old man imagine about the marlin if it had been alive?
25. How does Santiago know that he is not dead?
26. What does the old man speculate he could use to buy good luck?
27. When does Santiago finally see the lights of the city?
28. What happens by midnight as Santiago returns to the land?
29. What last weapon does Santiago use against the sharks?
30. Why do the sharks finally go away?
31. Santiago is completely alone when he returns to the harbor. What does the old man conclude defeated him?
32. When the old man pulls the skiff up on shore, why does he feel at least a little better?
33. When does Santiago realize the depth of his tiredness?
34. As he heads home and stops to look back, what does Santiago see regarding the marlin?
35. What happens to Santiago as he carries the mast up the hill?
36. After he finally gets to the shack and puts down the mast, describe what Santiago does.
37. Why does the boy not go out with the fishing boats the morning of Santiago's return, and what had the boy been doing every day the old man was absent?
38. What does the fisherman say about the marlin to the boy?
39. How does the boy act defensively about Santiago as the fishermen look at the marlin's skeleton?
40. What does the boy order for Santiago at the Terrace Café, and how does he react to the proprietor of the Terrace after he compliments the boy's catch the day before?
41. Santiago is completely passed out when the boy returns. How do we know the old man sleeps for a very long time?
42. What is the first thing Santiago asks the boy to bring him when he finally wakes up?
43. What does Santiago reply when the boy asks how much he suffered?
44. Who does Santiago say should get the head of the marlin?
45. After Santiago goes back to sleep, what is he dreaming of?