Code Hero – Chunks

1. Santiago demonstrates “*machoism*”, the trait of aggressive masculinity, when he endures the pain and struggle with the fish. He encourages, “Pull, hands. Hold up, legs. Last for me, head. Last for me. You never went. This time I’ll pull him over” (91) Despite his prior pain and injuries, Santiago still marches onwards. Proved by his great willpower and strength, this demonstrates his valuation of masculinity.
2. The trait of *stoicism* is demonstrated when Santiago is in the final stretches of his journey home. He counters, after thinking about previous pains, “Think about something cheerful, old man. Every minute now you are closer to home. You sail lighter for the loss of forty pounds” (104).
3. Santiago demonstrates the trait of *discipline*, when he reflects on the killing of the fish. Hemmingway narrates, “You did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman. You loved him when he was alive and you loved him after. If you love him, it is not a sin to kill him” (105). Contrary to his opinion of other wealthy fisherman, Santiago sees himself following a greater code, one that involves respect for the fish.
4. Santiago demonstrates his *physicality* when he encounters the last set of sharks on his return. Hemmingway describes, “He raised the club high and brought it down heavy and slamming onto the top of the shark’s broad head…and he struck the shark once more hard across the point of the nose as he slid down from the fish” (113). Santiago knows the only way he can outlast the sharks is to demonstrate his physicality and “machoism,” proving he fits this trait by clubbing the sharks.
5. The trait of *endurance* is demonstrated by Santiago when he reflects on his situation, prior to the last set of sharks. He notes, “You should have brought many things. But you did not bring them, old man. Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is” (110). Santiago demonstrates his mental strength and lack of self-pity with this thought process, forcing himself to trudge on despite the situation.
6. Santiago’s *Love of Nature* is demonstrated several times throughout the book, most notably when he acknowledges his enemy. He muses, “He lives on the live fish as you do. He is not a scavenger nor just a moving appetite as some sharks are. He is beautiful and noble and knows no fear of anything.” (105-106). Despite the receiver of this description being Santiago’s enemy, he still praises the shark. This demonstrates his love for nature.
7. Santiago shows his *Ritual* when he speaks with Manolin before he departs. They discuss, “‘What do you have to eat?’ the boy asked. ‘A pot of yellow rice with fish…’ ‘May I take the cast net?’ ‘Of course.’ There was no cast net and the boy remembered when they had sold it. But they went through this fiction every day” (16). This “fiction” demonstrates Santiago’s ritual, intended as a stabilizer for his life and a luck symbol.
8. Santiago’s *fairness and loyalty* are shown when he speaks about the ocean. He discusses, “He always thought of the sea as *la mar* which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her… Some of the younger fishermen…spoke of her as *el mar* which is masculine” (29-30). Despite his different perspectives on the subject, he still acknowledges and respects others’ points of view, proving his fairness and loyalty.