

**Extract: THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA (Ernest Hemingway)**

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When the boy came back the old man was asleep in the chair and the sun was down. The boy took the old army blanket off the bed and spread it over the back of the chair and over the old man's shoulders. They were strange shoulders, still powerful although very old, and the neck was still strong too and the **creases**<sup>1</sup> did not show so much when the old man was asleep and his head fallen forward. His shirt had been patched so many times that it was like the sail and the patches were **faded**<sup>2</sup> to many different shades by the sun...The newspaper lay across his knees and the weight of his arm held it there in the evening breeze. He was **barefooted**<sup>3</sup>. The boy left him there and when he came back the old man was still asleep. "Wake up old man," the boy said and put his hand on one of the old man's knees. The old man opened his eyes and for a moment he was coming back from a long way away. Then he smiled.

"What have you got?" he asked.

"**Supper**<sup>4</sup>," said the boy. "We're going to have supper."

"I'm not very hungry."

"Come on and eat. You can't fish and not eat."

"I have," the old man said getting up and taking the newspaper and folding it. Then he started to fold the blanket.

"Keep the blanket around you," the boy said. "You'll not fish without eating while I'm alive."

"Then live a long time and take care of yourself," the old man said. "What are we eating?"

"Black beans and rice, fried bananas, and some **stew**<sup>5</sup>."

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<sup>1</sup> Crease: (noun or verb) a line on cloth or paper (or skin) where it has been folded

<sup>2</sup> Fade: (verb) to lose colour or brightness

<sup>3</sup> Barefooted/barefoot: (adjective) not wearing shoes or socks

<sup>4</sup> Supper: (noun) a small meal eaten in the late evening

<sup>5</sup> Stew: a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly in liquid in a closed dish or pan

## COMPREHENSION B1: 2



### Questions

1. From the description of the old man, we can assume that he was...
  - a) Poor and weak
  - b) Tired and hungry
  - c) Surprisingly strong
  
2. From the text it's clear that the boy is...
  - a) Considerate but determined.
  - b) Friendly and docile.
  - c) Gentle but stubborn.
  
3. Which of the following is true?
  - a) The old man refuses to eat anything.
  - b) The old man is **eager**<sup>6</sup> to eat something.
  - c) The old man agrees to eat something.

SEE ANSWERS OVERLEAF

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<sup>6</sup> Eager: (adjective) to want very much to do something



## COMPREHENSION B1: 2

### Answers

1. c
2. a
3. c