The Old Man and the Sea

Directions: Choose one of the following essay questions and answer it as completely and thoroughly as possible in five-paragraph essay format. Remember to set up the introduction of your essay with a thesis statement that clearly addresses the question you are responding to. Include at least three specific examples that you explain in detail and support with quotations in the body paragraphs of your essay. You will want to finish with a strong conclusion that sums up and reinforces your essay’s main points.

Essay topic choices – Pick one:
1. Every person makes choices and lives with the consequences. Choose one character from The Old Man and the Sea and describe a choice he made and the results of that decision.

2. The theme of a work is the central idea, lesson, or message that the author wants to get across. Choose one theme from The Old Man and the Sea, explain it, and show how it could apply to your life.

3. The setting of a literary work is the time and place of the action. Describe the setting of The Old Man and the Sea and explain how it influenced the action and plot of the story.

4. Often in literature, a character struggles against powerful forces or obstacles that have a significant effect on that character. In The Old Man and the Sea, identify a character who struggled against powerful forces and obstacles. Explain what these forces and obstacles were, and how they affected the character.

5. Pretend you have written an award-winning sequel to The Old Man and the Sea called An Old Man, a Young Man, and the Sea. Your novella focuses on Santiago and Manolin’s fishing business and friendship. Describe their friendship and explain why it is important to your sequel (or, if you’re not feeling too creative, but like this prompt regardless, base your response on how their friendship is important to the story The Old Man and the Sea).
Your essay must be: 1) 500-600 words, 2) double-spaced, 3) in size 12 font 4) organized into five or more paragraphs 5) spellchecked and proofread by a classmate.

The above requirements are of paramount importance and must be followed, or your essay will not be evaluated, and you’ll earn a zero.

Assuming you satisfy the six criteria, your essay will be evaluated according to the following (each category is worth five points, for a total of 25 points):

- Your introduction re-states the essay question in a way that creates a clear thesis statement, and the conclusion reinforces the main points elucidated in your essay.

- There are at least three clearly explained examples from the book or your life (as appropriate) that support your essay's main thesis statement. Each example is backed up by a properly cited quotation: “The text is in quotes, the page number is in parentheses, and the period comes after the page number and ending quotation” (57).

- Your essay contains well-organized sentences and paragraphs (five paragraphs total).

- Your writing is enticing, engaging, and uses specific, appropriate language to get your points across.

- Your paper is free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Late essays will not be accepted. You’re responsible for saving and keeping track of all your work, including notes, drafts, and electronic files. Save your work often and in multiple locations, as you will only be submitting one copy. I am available to help while you’re writing your draft. Please let me know how I may best assist you. Thanks!