

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL- PATULI

CLASS – IX

SUBJECT- ENGLISH LITERATURE

CHAPTER- SHORT STORY: OLD MAN AT THE BRIDGE

ANSWER KEY

- (i) The old man seated near the bridge was seventy-six years old with steel rimmed spectacles, black dusty clothes and grey dusty face.
- (ii) There was a pontoon bridge across the Ebro River and carts, trucks, men, women and children were crossing it. The mule-drawn carts staggered up the steep bank from the bridge with soldiers helping push against the spokes of the wheels. The trucks ground up and away heading out of it all and the peasants plodded along in the ankle deep dust.
- (iii) The narrator's duty was to cross the bridge, explore the bridgehead beyond and find out to what point the enemy had advanced.
- (iv) The old man had to leave his home because of artillery fire by the enemy.
The old man was the last one to leave town as he was taking care of his animals- two goats, a cat and four pairs of pigeons. He was anxious for their safety.
- (v) In his story 'Old Man at the Bridge',

Ernest Hemingway has depicted man's cruelty to his own race in times of war. War causes death and destruction and this is highlighted through the condition of the old man who can be seen as a symbol of the civilian victims of war. The old man gives meaning to his life by taking care of his animals but war takes away everything from him. He is too old and tired to save himself. Thus, Hemingway has captured the true picture of war and its effects without a single shot being fired or a drop of blood being spilled.

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