***What can you remember from the beginning of the story?***

***What was the old man like? How did we know?***

**Read the next part of the story after you have answered the above questions:**

***Man From The South*** *by Roald Dahl (1954)*

*"Sure," the boy said. "That's right." He was about nineteen or twenty with a long freckled face and a rather sharp birdlike nose. His chest was very sunburned and there were freckles there too, and a few wisps of pale-reddish hair. He was holding the lighter in his right hand, ready to flip the wheel. "It never fails," he said, smiling now because he was purposely exaggerating his little boast. "I promise you it never fails."*

*"One momint, pleess." The hand that held the cigar came up high, palm outward, as though it were stopping traffic. "Now juss one momint." He had a curiously soft, toneless voice and he kept looking at the boy all the time.*

*"Shall we not perhaps make a little bet on dat?" He smiled at the boy. "Shall we not make a little bet on whether your lighter lights?"*

*"Sure, I'll bet," the boy said. "Why not?"*

*"You like to bet?"*

*"Sure, I'll always bet."*

*The man paused and examined his cigar, and I must say I didn't much like the way he was behaving. It seemed he was already trying to make something out of this, and to embarrass the boy, and at the same time I had the feeling he was relishing a private little secret all his own.*

*He looked up again at the boy and said slowly, "I like to bet, too. Why we don't have a good bet on dis ting? A good big bet?*

*"Now wait a minute," the boy said. "I can't do that. But I'll bet you a dollar, or whatever it is over here-some shillings, I guess."*

*The little man waved his hand again. "Listen to me. Now we have some fun. We make a bet. Den we go up to my room here in de hotel where iss no wind and I bet you you cannot light dis famous lighter of yours ten times running without missing once."*

*"I'll bet I can," the boy said.*

*"All right. Good. We make a bet, yes?"*

*"Sure. I'll bet you a buck."*

*"No, no. I make you very good bet. I am rich man and I am sporting man also. Listen to me. Outside de hotel iss my car. Iss very fine car. American car from your country. Cadillac-"*

*"Hey, now. Wait a minute." The boy leaned back in his deck chair and he laughed. "I can't put up that sort of property. This is crazy."*

*"Not crazy at all. You strike lighter successfully ten times running and Cadillac is yours. You like to have dis Cadillac, yes?"*

*"Sure, I'd like to have a Cadillac." The boy was still grinning.*

*"All right. Fine. We make a bet and I put up my Cadillac."*

*"And what do I put up?"*

*"The little man carefully removed the red band from his still unlighted cigar. "I never ask you, my friend, to bet something you cannot afford. You understand?"*

*"Then what do I bet?"*

*"I make it very easy for you, yes?"*

*"Okay. You make it easy."*

*"Some small ting you can afford to give away, and if you did happen to lose it you would not feel too bad. Right?"*

*"Such as what?"*

*"Such as, perhaps, de little finger of your left hand."*

*"My what!” The boy stopped grinning.*

**Now you need to answer the questions.**

1. What impression do you get of the American sailor? Find a quotation to back up your point.
2. What does the Old man offer as his part of the bet? Why is this strange?
3. What does the American sailor offer as his part of the bet, at first?
4. How does the American sailor react after finding out what the Old man actually wants? How do we know from his speech and his actions? Find a quotation to prove it. What does your quotation suggest about what the character is feeling?
5. Would you take the bet? Why/Why not?

**Task 3:**

Think of a simile for each of the following things (think ambitious adjectives and realistic comparisons – *I don’t want ‘the pool was as blue as the sky’*):

1. The old man from the South
2. The pool where the other teenage boys and girls are playing
3. The sailor’s sunburn

Consider the shape, colour, and feel of these things. Use your imagination.

Think of a metaphor for each of the following things:

1. The lighter
2. The hotel

**Task 4:**

Imagine you are the American sailor, and this strange man from the South has just suggested that you make a bet. Think about why you are in Jamaica in the first place, and how you were just in the pool having fun with your friends and the English girls you just met. Think about how you planned to spend the rest of your time there.

This bet is unlike anything you’ve heard of before – he is asking you to cut off your finger if you lose – but if you win, you could have a car! Not just any car, a Cadillac! That would be worth a lot of money and you could never afford one otherwise.

Write a diary entry (no longer than 3 paragraphs) retelling what has happened so far in the story from the American sailor’s point of view. Your main focus should be on the debate about whether you are going to take the bet or not.

As you are top sets, I would like you to try to include some quotations from the text in your diary entry, for example, in your description of the man.

Challenge: Include some ambitious connectives (avoid but, so) and at least one simile to describe the old man.

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