

Plot Diagram for "The Sea Devil" by Arthur Gordon

1. The man decides to go night-fishing for mullet without any protective gear or clothing.

2. The man is successful in casting his and net, catches a net full of mullet.

3. He decides to continue fishing, and when he mistakes a dark shadow for more mullet, he accidentally captures a sting ray (the sea devil).

4. The man becomes entangled in his own net, struggles to free himself, fighting against the ray.

Rising Action

Climax: Turning Point

The man realizes if he is going to survive, he must calm down. As he approaches the ocean marker/stake, he decides to work with the sea devil, rather than fight against it (so he swims in the same direction as the ray).

1. While swimming, he loops the rope around the stake covered in the barnacles, hoping they will cut the rope (and not him).

2. He is freed, swims to the surface, and expresses his relief at his survival (he begins sobbing).

Falling Action

Resolution:

He releases the mullet he caught earlier... AND he states that he will never fish again alone at night.

Exposition

Protagonist: The unnamed man/fisherman

Antagonist: Nature (the sea devil, barnacles...)

Setting – Time: Late Summer (September); night

Setting – Place: Florida Bay/Lagoon (the ocean)

Internal Conflict: The Man vs. his desire for survival/ his fear of death; his own pride;

External Conflict: his feelings of superiority over nature)

Person vs. Nature

(the man vs. the ray)

Author's Theme: Humanity should respect the power of nature. Humanity should not underestimate the strength/power of nature.

Symbolism: stakes/markers = barrier between life/death rope/noose = death
the sea devil = strength of nature the net = captivity/control

Foreshadowing:

Description of the weight and strength of the net, hinting at its efficiency for fishing/hunting.

Description that the rope is similar to a noose, hinting at potential death).
Description of nature's power in general (barnacles, porpoise, the ray)