**Sample Analysis Paragraph over Character:**

The unnamed protagonist in Arthur Gordon’s short story “Sea Devil” can be described as strong for many reasons. One example is when he enjoys fishing alone at night because it provides him with the elemental, physical experience of the hunt. The story states that “he could feel the tension that is older than the human race, the fierce exhilaration of the hunter at the moment of ambush” (15). This shows that although the man enjoys the thrill of the catch, he does not fish out of cruelty but rather for the physical experience that allows him to use his strength. The man appreciates the opportunity to break away from his office job to rely upon his physical stamina to test his own endurance. He is a competitive man who is not completely fulfilled by life in an office and finds this need met in his battles with nature. Another example of the man’s strength is when he tries to escape from the ray, holding onto the stake covered in barnacles until his skin shreds. The story describes that “in five seconds or less he would be dragged into the stake and cut to ribbons if he tried to hold on, or drowned if he didn’t” (45). Therefore, the man shows his courage and strength by risking everything in order to survive. He realizes that his mental strength is superior to the physical strength of the creature, and he must use this strength in order to win the battle. He is not only physically strong as shown by his endurance, but he is mentally adept as he is able to use logic for formulate a plan to escape. From these examples it is clear that the man exhibits both physical and mental strength in the story. He survives the ordeal and leaves the water as a changed man who now has an even greater appreciation for the forces of nature.