1. Consider why the story is called ‘The End of Something’. What is it that has ended?

2. To what does Marjorie compare the ruin of the timber mill, and how does this show her romantic nature?

3. Why does Hemingway describe the fishing in detail, but not the characters?

4. In the third paragraph, the lake bed "dropped off suddenly from sand shallows to 12 feet of dark water". What might this represent?

5. Why does Hemingway use so much direct speech?

6. Here are five quotations from The End of Something. What are their hidden meanings, if any?

1) "Bill selected a sandwich from the lunch basket and walked over to have a look at the rods."

2) "I don't feel like eating."

3) "It isn't fun any more."

4) "The big mill building had all its machinery that was removable taken out."

5) "there was nothing of the mill left except the broken white limestone of its foundations".

7. Match the quotations from the story to the points you could use them to support.

a. Hemingway may be suggesting that men and women look for different things in relationships

b. The setting reflects the theme of 'endings'.

c. Throughout the story, Nick is awkward and unhelpful in relation to Marjorie's suggestions, pointing towards his intentions.

d. The story seems to say that when something ends everything associated with it has to end too, which means Marjorie and Nick's friendship is completely over.

e. Hemingway prefers to use action or speech to demonstrate feelings and character, rather than description. For example, Bill's casualness at the end of the story disguises his concern for Nick.

8. With which character do you sympathize more: Nick or Marjorie? Why?

9. Characterize each of the three characters from ‘The End of Something’.