



Ernest Hemingway

A Lively Learning Guide
by Shmoop

About this Learning Guide

Shmoop Will Make You a Better Lover*
*of Literature, History, Poetry, Life...

Our lively learning guides are written by experts and educators who want to show your brain a good time. Shmoop writers come primarily from Ph.D. programs at top universities, including Stanford, Harvard, and UC Berkeley.

Want more Shmoop? We cover literature, poetry, bestsellers, music, US history, civics, biographies (and the list keeps growing). Drop by our website to see the latest.

©2010 Shmoop University, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Talk to the Labradoodle... She's in Charge.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
In a Nutshell	1
Biography	1
Biography	1
Oak Park & Childhood	2
WWI	4
A Moveable Feast & Paris	5
Key West, Cuba & WWII	6
Nobel Prize & Suicide	7
Facts	8
Trivia	8
Family	9
Quotes	10
Resume	12
Education	12
Work Experience	12
Stories	12
Novels	13
Nonfiction	13
Poems	13
Awards	13
Timeline	14
Citations	21

Introduction

In a Nutshell

Between the battlefields and the plane crashes, the hunting and the bullfighting, the fishing and the boxing, the drinking and the boasting, wherever did Ernest Hemingway find time to write? But write he did. Hemingway produced ten novels, five books of non-fiction, and scores of short stories, essays, and poems before taking his life at the age of 61. An American original, he was born in the comfortable Midwestern suburb of Oak Park, Illinois, a place he described as full of "wide lawns and narrow minds." He spent the rest of his life throwing himself outside that comfort zone, constantly seeking new challenges, testing himself and the people around him. In doing so, he took American prose to a place it had never been—not just to the bullrings of Pamplona and the safari camps of Kenya, but to a pared-down, elegant style that condensed paragraphs of unspoken knowledge into a single sentence that said it all. The most common description of his writing style has been "hard-boiled"; Hemingway preferred to call it "true."

Hemingway was not big on self-analysis; he said upon receiving his Nobel Prize that "a writer should write what he has to say and not speak it." But the facts of his life are important, for Papa (the nickname he gave himself) believed that a good writer ought to draw always upon personal experience for his material. He wrecked his body in pursuit of a macho ideal. He wrecked his relationships in pursuit of... well, who knows what exactly he was after. After a lifetime of celebrating striving and stoicism, Hemingway ended his life wracked in mental and physical pain. Whatever his personal challenges, Hemingway's professional legacy is clear. American prose is different because of him, and his unique style has influenced art, film and countless other writers. We can only imagine that Papa would be proud.

Biography

Biography

"Sometimes when I was starting a new story and I could not get it going," Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "I would stand and look out over the roofs of Paris and think, 'Do not worry. You have always written before and you will write now. All you have to do is write one true sentence.

Write the truest sentence that you know.'" ¹ In his search for the truest sentence, Ernest Hemingway changed American fiction. He came of age in a golden era of American literature. The names of his drinking buddies would still be filling required reading lists decades later. But Hemingway didn't want to merely mimic styles that had already proven successful. "How simple the writing of literature would be if it were only necessary to write in another way what has been well written," he once said—and Hemingway rarely chose the simple path². Instead, he

took American prose, threw his weight behind it and laboriously moved it to a new and different place.

Hemingway was not a scholar; he never went to college. He served his apprenticeship in journalism, the trade of chronicling real life, and was influenced by the style guidelines hammered into his head as a cub reporter at the *Kansas City Star*, where stories were measured carefully by the inch. He was always looking for that single phrase or sentence that would illuminate pages of things unwritten. He celebrated in his fiction the struggling, the striving and the stoic, characters whose actions reflected an id-driven archetype of man. The masterpiece that won him all the big prizes and clinched his place in the canon of literary greats is a slim novella that compresses the epic struggle of life and death into a story about an old man wrestling with a fish.

His biography is important. Hemingway always believed that the best writing came from personal experience, and his novels and stories were influenced heavily by the settings of his own life. His fiction reflected his various interests and experiences, whether it was bullfighting, African big-game hunting, or driving an ambulance in the First World War. More than just thinly-veiled autobiography, Hemingway used the personal basis of his work as a challenge to himself as a writer, remarking that "good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.... If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer."³

Hemingway's created an image of himself that was larger than life, literally—people always thought he was taller than his actual height of six feet. His reputation, however, was no accident, and in maintaining Hemingway the myth he alienated many people who had to deal with Hemingway the man. He exaggerated or outright lied about some of his exploits in hunting and war. He had great difficulty maintaining friendships and marriages. Though he professed not to care for praise, he sought it out and got cranky when it wasn't given. He could be charming and charismatic or bullying and boorish—often to the same people. And his obsession with manliness—well, let's just say that the guy had a few issues with his mom. And though his writing championed those who never gave up, in the end he surrendered in his own battle against depression, ending his life in suicide. But as Papa wrote in *The Old Man and the Sea*, man can be destroyed, but never defeated. More than forty years after his death, Hemingway's work lives on in his own bibliography and in the countless authors he inspired.

Oak Park & Childhood

Ernest Miller Hemingway was born on 21 July 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois, a comfortable suburb located just west of Chicago. He was the second child born to Clarence Edmonds Hemingway, a local doctor whom patients called "Doc Ed," and Grace Hall Hemingway, a once-aspiring opera singer who taught music and voice lessons in Oak Park. The family eventually grew to a

total of two sons and four daughters. Decades later, it became clear that the Hemingway family shared a tendency toward depression and suicide. Ernest eventually took his own life, as did his father, his brother, and two of his four sisters.

The tragic side of the family wasn't yet apparent during their days at Oak Park, an attractive, well-to-do enclave that Ernest would describe years later as a place of "wide lawns and narrow minds." Grace Hall was a strictly religious woman with a melodramatic and mercurial temperament. Not long after Ernest's birth she developed an odd fondness for dressing him and his older sister Marcelline as "twins"—sometimes as boys, with short hair and overalls, and sometimes as girls, with flowery dresses and long hair. This game of dress-up occurred frequently enough that three-year-old Ernest worried at Christmas that Santa Claus wouldn't know he was a boy. Ernest was six when Grace finally allowed him to cut off his long locks for good.

Hemingway then spent the rest of his life proving his masculinity to himself and everyone else in his orbit. His friend, the writer John dos Passos, said later that Hemingway was the only man he ever knew who truly hated his mother. His bitterness toward his mother over his upbringing spilled out in the way he treated female characters in his fiction—and in the way he treated his four wives. "Deep in Ernest, due to his mother, going back to the indestructible first memories of childhood, was mistrust and fear of women," wrote Martha Gellhorn, Hemingway's third wife and a prominent journalist in her own right, in a 1969 letter to her son from another relationship. "Which he suffered from always, and made women suffer; and which shows in his writing."⁴

The young Ernest Hemingway liked sports and being outdoors, hunting and fishing on trips to the family's vacation home at Walloon Lake. As a student at Oak Park and River Forest High School he played football and boxed. He was also a strong student who showed an early affinity for writing. He wrote for *Trapeze*, the student newspaper, and *Tabula*, the yearbook. Found among his papers after his death was a list the teenage Hemingway kept entitled "Good Stuff for Stories and Essays," which includes gems such as: "Mancelona, rainy night, tough looking lumberjack, young indian girl, kills self and girl."⁵ He was a born journalist. Even as a teenager he kept notebooks filled with his thoughts and observations about the world around him.

Upon his graduation from high school in June 1917, Hemingway opted not to go to college. Instead he took a job at the Kansas City *Star* newspaper as a cub reporter, writing stories about crime, war recruitment and other local issues. Hemingway said afterward that the principles outlined in the *Star*'s style guide—the book that spelled out the rules writers must follow when writing for the newspaper—influenced his work for the rest of his life. Readers of Hemingway's fiction will recognize the key elements of short first sentences, short paragraphs, declarative prose, and an active voice. "Those were the best rules I ever learned for the business of writing," Hemingway said later. "No man with any talent, who feels and writes truly about the thing he is trying to say, can fail to write well if he abides by them."⁶ As much as he enjoyed his newspaper work, Hemingway quit in April 1918 after only six months on the job. There was a

war going on, and he had bigger adventures in mind.

WWI

For young people of Hemingway's generation, World War I was supposed to be the adventure of a lifetime. You simply had to be there. Many of those who did not engage in overseas combat because of age or other circumstances (like Hemingway's colleague F. Scott Fitzgerald) deeply regretted missing their chance. "Not for anything would I have missed the opportunity for a ringside view of the greatest spectacle to unfold in our time," wrote Henry Villard, a journalist and businessman who knew Hemingway during the war. "To many of us the war in Europe resembled a gigantic stage on which the most exciting drama ever produced was being played out."⁷ Ernest Hemingway, who never turned down a good adventure, couldn't resist. He volunteered first for the Army but failed the vision test, so he applied instead to serve as a driver for the Red Cross Ambulance Corps. He was posted to Italy. World War I was bloody, often grotesquely so, and the impression that the gruesome scenes left on Hemingway is apparent in short stories like "A Natural History of the Dead." On 8 July 1918, while he was passing out supplies to Italian troops at Fossalta di Piave, Hemingway was hit in the legs by a mortar blast, and then by machine gun fire. Despite his injuries, he managed to drag a wounded Italian soldier off the battlefield, an act for which the Italian government awarded him a medal. It was the first of several serious injuries Hemingway would sustain during his adventures, injuries with physical consequences that dogged his later years.

Surgery to repair his legs was successful and Hemingway recovered well. He developed a reputation among the staff and patients at the Milan hospital where he recuperated as a great storyteller, though no one could tell which of the details in his stories were real and which were exaggerated for dramatic effect. He also fell in love with Agnes von Kurowsky, an American nurse from Washington, D.C. who was six years his senior. The war ended and the couple made plans for her to join him back in the United States. Soon after Hemingway returned home in January 1919, he received a letter from Agnes informing him that she had fallen in love with an Italian officer whom she planned to marry. Hemingway was heartbroken. He threw himself into his journalism, working first in Toronto and then in Chicago as a reporter for the *Toronto Star*. His doomed relationship with Agnes would influence his writing - a fictionalized account of their romance appeared in his first novel, *A Farewell to Arms*.

Through friends he met Hadley Richardson, a St. Louis native eight years his senior. They married in September 1921 and settled in Chicago—briefly. Hemingway's friend and fellow writer Sherwood Anderson had told him that he really needed to check out Paris. It was cheap (the exchange rate favored the dollar over the franc), the bars were great, and all the really good writers were going there. Hemingway was convinced. In December 1921 the newlywed couple set sail for Paris to become part of one of the greatest literary gatherings of the twentieth century.

A Moveable Feast & Paris

Anderson was correct that all the good writers were in Paris. Among the authors and artists who established themselves there in the years after World War I were Gertrude Stein, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Anderson himself. It was a cohort of young people whom Gertrude Stein nicknamed the Lost Generation—those who caught only the tail end of the excitement and drama of World War I and then faced the great letdown of the war's aftermath. Some expatriates in Paris at the time drank their days away in the cafes. Hemingway did plenty of drinking (for the rest of his life, he bore a scar on his forehead from a drunken collision with a Paris skylight) but was also a disciplined writer. He traveled around Europe writing pieces for the *Toronto Star*, using his immense powers of observation to record life for the newspaper. One of his editors, Charles Scribner Jr., called Hemingway "one of the most perceptive travelers in the history of literature."⁸ He visited Spain and took in his first bullfight, sparking a lifelong obsession with the sport. Eventually he quit journalism to focus full-time on fiction, conscientiously honing his style and craft in story after story. He was inspired by Stein's sparse prose style, and she was an unsparing critic of his early work. He published his first book, a collection entitled *Three Stories and Ten Poems*, in 1923. In 1926 he published his first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, which centers on a group of expatriate Americans living in Europe who also enjoy bullfighting. The book earned him literary acclaim.

Hemingway's literary peers influenced his writing, but he had difficulty maintaining friendships (and marriages) and ended many relationships bitterly. Gertrude Stein and her companion Alice B. Toklas were godparents to Hemingway's first son, but Hemingway called Stein a "lazy writer"⁹ (a harsh condemnation from a man who valued discipline) in *A Moveable Feast*, his posthumously published memoir of his time in Paris. Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald were close friends when they first met—Fitzgerald recommended Hemingway to his editor at Scribner's, Maxwell Perkins—but Hemingway later turned on his friend, battling with Fitzgerald's wife Zelda and eviscerating both Fitzgeralds in memoirs.

Hemingway could be a bully. His burly exterior concealed a delicate ego. He had a hard time taking criticism from anyone—in response to a detailed, ten-page letter of constructive criticism Fitzgerald wrote after Hemingway asked him to review a draft of *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway scribbled at the bottom, "Kiss my ass." Another reason his relationships faltered was his habit of drawing upon real-life experience for his books. Hemingway believed strongly that good writing came from personal experience, and characters in his books—not always portrayed in the most flattering light—were sometimes thinly veiled versions of real-life counterparts (*The Sun Also Rises*) or had no veil at all (*A Moveable Feast*).

In Paris the Hemingways befriended a woman named Pauline Pfeiffer, a fashion reporter who sometimes traveled with the couple. She and Ernest began an affair. Hadley divorced him in 1927, and a few months later he and Pauline married. In his memoir, Hemingway blamed Pauline for seducing him, saying that the ploy of befriending a woman in order to steal her husband was "the oldest trick there is." It might have been an old trick, but it was one that

Hemingway fell for more than once in his lifetime.

Key West, Cuba & WWII

In 1928 the new Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway moved to Key West, Florida. It was a big year personally for Hemingway. In June his second son Patrick was born. Then in December, in a tragic foreshadowing of Ernest's own suicide, his father Clarence shot himself after struggling for years with health problems. Hemingway took his father's death hard and returned to Oak Park to arrange the funeral. The following year he published *A Farewell to Arms*, which he wrote mostly at his in-laws' house in Arkansas. The novel is set in World War I and follows the doomed relationship between a young, stoic American ambulance driver serving on the Italian front and a British nurse. Sound familiar? Like much of Hemingway's early fiction, it drew heavily on his personal experiences. The narrator also embodies many of the key characteristics of the "Hemingway male": stoic, courageous, impervious to flattery or praise, happy in pursuit of drink, women and other manly objectives. The novel was critically and commercially successful, enough so that Hemingway could pay the bills and not have to worry about his next paycheck.

After years of studious devotion to his fiction, Hemingway spent the decade after the publication of *A Farewell to Arms* taking a bit of a breather. He, Pauline and their children (his third and final child, Gregory, was born in 1931) settled in a house in Key West. He was able to travel and delve deeper into his various passions. In 1932 he went to Spain to research bullfighting for *Death in the Afternoon*, his definitive book on the subject. The following year, he and Pauline went on a ten-day safari to Kenya, where Hemingway developed an obsession with big game hunting. He returned several times to Africa. The landscape of African hills and safari camps appeared often in his fiction (including "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber," two of Hemingway's classic short stories) and nonfiction (*The Green Hills of Africa*). In 1936 he traveled to Spain to cover the Spanish Civil War as a correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance. The country had long gripped Hemingway's imagination—he was an outspoken supporter of the Republic, which Generalissimo Francisco Franco and his Fascists were attempting to overthrow—and his experiences there during the war served as the inspiration for his 1940 novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

By the late 1930s, another intelligent, attractive female writer friend was spending a lot of time around the Hemingway household. She was Martha Gellhorn, an accomplished war correspondent, who joined Hemingway covering the war in Spain. They married in 1940, as soon as his divorce from Pauline was final, and set up house at an estate in Cuba called Finca Vigia. There, Hemingway drank, fished, boxed, grew his famous beard and generally spent more time cultivating his image of a burly macho man than writing any fiction. When the United States joined World War II in 1941, he trawled the waters in his fishing boat *Pilar* looking for German submarines (and was later awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts). The couple traveled together to China for Martha's work (Ernest filed a few stories too), and she recorded Hemingway's famous powers of conversation, observation and alcohol consumption. "He was able to sit with a bunch of men for most of a day or most of a night, or most of both day and

night though perhaps with different men, wherever he happened to have started sitting, all of them fortified by a continuous supply of drink, the while he roared with laughter at reminiscences and anecdotes," she wrote. "Aside from being his form of amusement, he learned about a place and people through the eyes and experiences of those who lived there."¹⁰

In 1944 Hemingway traveled to Europe (where Martha was already working as a war correspondent) to cover the war in France and Germany for *Collier's* magazine. Their marriage was faltering. Almost immediately he met a journalist named Mary Welsh and—well, you know the rest. Ernest and Mary were married on 14 March 1946 in Cuba.

Nobel Prize & Suicide

The last decade of Ernest Hemingway's life was marked by professional accomplishment and personal disaster. By his fifties, a life of hard living and hard drinking began to catch up with him. His ailments included liver problems, diabetes, depression and the lingering physical damage related to his many injuries. Hemingway had endured a lifelong streak of freak accidents, from that skylight accident in Paris to the time his infant son stuck his finger in his eye and tore his cornea. In 1954, while on safari with Mary in Africa, the couple was seriously injured in two successive plane crashes (the plane that came to rescue them after the first crash crashed as well). He was recovering from those injuries at the same time that his literary career and personal fame reached its peak.

In September 1952, *Life* magazine published Hemingway's novella *The Old Man and the Sea*. The book focuses on Santiago, a weathered, quiet, long-suffering Cuban fisherman who spends days at sea wrestling with a marlin, only to see the fish eaten by sharks on the way back to port. Hemingway's literary reputation had dwindled in recent years, thanks largely to his 1950 novel *Across the River and Into the Trees*, which was regarded as about as bad a book as Ernest Hemingway was capable of writing. The story of Santiago and the elegant telling of his epic, Christ-like suffering was wildly popular among critics and readers. Writers flocked to Hemingway's home to do profiles of Papa, the fishing, hunting writer of near-mythical status. Even Hemingway, his own harshest critic, was pleased with the book, calling it the "best I can write ever for all of my life."¹¹ *The Old Man and the Sea* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953 and in 1954 Hemingway was honored with the Nobel Prize for Literature. Upon presenting the prize, the secretary of the Swedish Academy said that Ernest Hemingway had done more for American literature than any of his colleagues, as a writer who "makes us feel we are confronted by a still young nation which seeks and finds its exact form of expression."¹² Hemingway was still recovering from the plane crashes and was unable to travel to Sweden to receive the prize. The American ambassador accepted it for him and read his speech aloud, which included the phrase: "Things may not be immediately discernible in what a man writes, and in this sometimes he is fortunate; but eventually they are quite clear and by these and the degree of alchemy that he possesses he will endure or be forgotten."¹³

Hemingway's depression, which had plagued him at times throughout his life, worsened in his

later years. By the time he and Mary moved to Ketchum, Idaho, in 1960, Hemingway was receiving shock treatments for depression that made him lose his memory. The loss of his memory, the store of details and experience upon which his writing was based, was more than he could take. The man who valued striving and surviving above all else could no longer carry on the fight. A first, unsuccessful suicide attempt occurred in spring 1961. Then on 2 July 1961, just a few weeks before his 62nd birthday, Ernest Hemingway positioned himself in the foyer of his Ketchum home and shot himself in the head with a double-barreled shotgun.

He was buried in Ketchum. His epitaph was a poem he wrote for a friend years earlier: "Best of all he loved the fall/ The leaves yellow on the cottonwoods/ Leaves floating on the trout streams/ And above the hills/ The high blue windless skies/ Now he will be a part of them forever."

Hemingway often inscribed letters and books with the French expression *il faut d'abord durer*—first, one must last. Hemingway's lasting contribution to American literature includes not only his own impressive bibliography, but the books of countless of other writers who were inspired by his prose. John Updike said that "an entire generation of American men learned to speak in the accents of [his] stoicism"; Raymond Carver recalled that his generation of aspiring young writers "managed to work Hemingway's name into just about every conversation we had."¹⁴ Writers who counted him as an influence included Hunter S. Thompson, J.D. Salinger and Jack Kerouac, all of whom developed their own voices that in turn inspired new generations. Hemingway would have liked that. For as he said in his Nobel prize acceptance speech, "How simple the writing of literature would be if it were only necessary to write in another way what has been well written. It is because we have had such great writers in the past that a writer is driven far out past where he can go, out to where no one can help him."¹⁵

Facts

Trivia

Ernest Hemingway nicknamed himself "Papa" at the age of 27.¹⁶

Hemingway's ultra-religious parents were frequently horrified by the frank and suggestive content of their son's work. When they received their copies of his 1924 short story collection *In Our Time*, a furious Clarence Hemingway sent the books back to the publisher.¹⁷

After reading an early draft of *A Farewell to Arms* at Hemingway's request, F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote his friend a ten-page letter. He suggested that Hemingway end the book with the passage: "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure that it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry." Hemingway summed up his thoughts on Fitzgerald's critique in a three-word

response at the bottom of the letter: "Kiss my ass."¹⁸

Hemingway's machismo sometimes got on his fellow writers' nerves. In 1937, joking about Hemingway's fascination with firearms and weaponry, the writer Max Eastman wrote, "Come out from behind that false hair on your chest, Ernest. We all know you." The next time Hemingway saw Eastman at their publisher's office in New York, he tore his shirt from his chest to prove that he had chest hair before punching Eastman.¹⁹

Hemingway and James Joyce were drinking buddies in Paris. Joyce was thin and bespectacled; Hemingway was tall and strapping. When they went out Joyce would get drunk, pick a fight with a bigger guy in the bar and then hide behind Hemingway and yell, "Deal with him, Hemingway. Deal with him."²⁰

After Hemingway and his fourth wife Mary were injured in two successive plane crashes in Africa in 1954, first reports said he had been killed. Some American newspapers even published his obituary.²¹

By 1957, Hemingway's daily alcohol consumption included Chianti in the morning, wine with lunch and dinner, nightcaps and about a quart of liquor throughout the day.²²

Hemingway bought the gun he used to commit suicide from Abercrombie & Fitch, which at the time was a camping and firearms store.²³

Family

Father: Clarence Hemingway (1871-1928)

Mother: Grace Hall Hemingway (1872-1951)

Sister: Marcelline Hemingway (1898-1963)

Sister: Ursula Hemingway (1902-1966)

Sister: Carol Hemingway (1911-2002)

Brother: Leicester Hemingway (1915-1982)

Wife 1: Elizabeth Hadley Richardson (1891-1979), married 1921, divorced 1927

Son: John Hadley Nicanor "Jack" Hemingway (1923-2000)

Granddaughter: Joan Hemingway (b. 1950)

Granddaughter: Margaux Hemingway (1954-1996)

Granddaughter: Mariel Hemingway (b. 1961)

Wife 2: Pauline Pfeiffer (1895-1951), married 1927, divorced 1940

Son: Patrick Hemingway (b. 1928)

Granddaughter: Mina Hemingway

Son: Gregory Hemingway (1931-2001)

Grandson: Patrick Hemingway
Grandson: Edward Hemingway
Grandson: Sean Hemingway
Grandson: Brendan Hemingway
Granddaughter: Vanessa Hemingway
Granddaughter: Maria Hemingway
Grandson: John Hemingway (b. 1960)
Granddaughter: Lorian Hemingway (b. 1951)

Wife 3: Martha Gellhorn (1908-1998), married 1940, divorced 1945

Wife 4: Mary Welsh (1908-1986) married 1946

Quotes

"All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.... If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer."

— Ernest Hemingway, "Old Newsman Writes: A Letter from Cuba," 1934²⁴

"She shot very well this good, this rich bitch, this kindly caretaker and destroyer of his talent. Nonsense. He had destroyed his talent himself. Why should he blame this woman because she kept him well? He had destroyed his talent by not using it, by betrayals of himself and what he believed in, by drinking so much that he blunted the edge of his perceptions, by laziness, by sloth, and by snobbery, by pride and by prejudice, by hook and by crook."

— Ernest Hemingway, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"²⁵

"Nick slipped off his pack and lay down in the shade. He lay on his back and looked up into the pine trees. His neck and back and the small of his back rested as he stretched. The earth felt good against his back. He looked up at the sky, through the branches, and then shut his eyes. He opened them and looked up again. There was a wind high up in the branches. He shut his eyes again and went to sleep."

— Ernest Hemingway, "Big Two-Hearted River: Part I"²⁶

"If a writer of prose knows enough about what he is writing about he may omit things that he knows and the reader, if the writer is writing truly enough, will have a feeling of those things."

— Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon*²⁷

"A man can be destroyed but not defeated."

— Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* ²⁸

"Gertrude Stein and me are just like brothers."

— Ernest Hemingway, letter to Sherwood Anderson, 1922 ²⁹

"You see I am trying in all my stories to get the feeling of the actual life across - not to just depict life—or criticize it—but to actually make it alive. So that when you have read something by me you actually experience the thing. You can't do this without putting in the bad and the ugly as well as what is beautiful. Because if it is all beautiful you can't believe in it."

— Ernest Hemingway, letter to his father, 1925 ³⁰

"There is seven-eighths of it under water for every part that shows. Anything you know you can eliminate and it only strengthens your iceberg. It is the part that doesn't show. If a writer omits something because he does not know it then there is a hole in the story."

— Ernest Hemingway in interview with *Paris Review* 1958 ³¹

"It wasn't by accident that the Gettysburg address was so short. The laws of prose writing are as immutable as those of flight, of mathematics, of physics."

— Ernest Hemingway, 1945 letter to Maxwell Perkins ³²

"We are all bitched from the start and you especially have to be hurt like hell before you can write seriously. But when you get the damned hurt use it—don't cheat with it. Be as faithful to it as a scientist."

— Ernest Hemingway, 1934 letter to F. Scott Fitzgerald ³³

"But sometimes when I was starting a new story and I could not get it going, I would sit in front of the fire and squeeze the peel of the little oranges into the edge of the flame and watch the sputter of blue that they made. I would stand and look out over the roofs of Paris and think, 'Do not worry. You have always written before and you will write now. All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.'"

— Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast* ³⁴

"Writing, at its best, is a lonely life. Organizations for writers palliate the writer's loneliness but I doubt if they improve his writing. He grows in public stature as he sheds his loneliness and often his work deteriorates. For he does his work alone and if he is a good enough writer he must face eternity, or the lack of it, each day. For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes, with great luck, he will succeed."

— Ernest Hemingway, Nobel laureate speech ³⁵

"He hated his mother, with reason. She was solid hell. A big false lying woman; everything about her was virtuous and untrue. Now I know enough to know that no woman should ever marry a man who hated his mother ... Deep in Ernest, due to his mother, going back to the indestructible first memories of childhood, was mistrust and fear of women. Which he suffered from always, and made women suffer; and which shows in his writing."

— Martha Gellhorn, in a 1969 letter to her son Sandy³⁶

"It may be true that Hemingway's earlier writings display brutal, cynical, and callous sides which may be considered at variance with the Nobel Prize's requirement for a work of an ideal tendency. But on the other hand, he also possesses a heroic pathos which forms the basic element in his awareness of life, a manly love of danger and adventure with a natural admiration for every individual who fights the good fight in a world of reality overshadowed by violence and death."

— Anders Osterling, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, presenting Hemingway's Nobel Prize ³⁷

Resume

Education

Oak Park and River Forest High School, 1913-1917

Work Experience

Reporter, *Kansas City Star* (1917-1918)

Ambulance driver, Red Cross Volunteer Corps (1918)

Editor, Cooperative Society of America newsletter (c. 1918)

Reporter, *Toronto Star* (1920-1924)

War correspondent, North American Newspaper Alliance (c. 1936)

Military Irregular, United States Armed Forces (World War II)

War correspondent, *Collier's* magazine (1944)

Stories

Three Stories & Ten Poems (1923)

In Our Time (1924 Paris, 1925 U.S.)

Men Without Women (1927)

Winner Take Nothing (1933)

The Fifth Column and the First Forty-Nine Stories (1938)

The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories (1961)

The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber and Other Stories (1963)

Hemingway's African Stories: the Stories, Their Sources, Their Critics, ed. John M. Howell

(1969)

The Nick Adams Stories (1972)

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway (1987)

Novels

The Torrents of Spring (1926)

The Sun Also Rises (1926)

A Farewell to Arms (1929)

To Have and Have Not (1937)

For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940)

Across the River and Into the Trees (1950)

The Old Man and the Sea (1952)

Islands in the Stream (1970)

The Garden of Eden (1986)

True at First Light: A Fictional Memoir, ed. Patrick Hemingway (1999)

Nonfiction

Death in the Afternoon (1932)

Green Hills of Africa (1935)

The Spanish Earth (1938)

A Moveable Feast (1964)

The Dangerous Summer (1988)

Poems

The Collected Poems of Ernest Hemingway (1970)

Eighty-Eight Poems, ed. Nicholas Gerogiannis (1979)

Awards

Silver Medal of Military Valor, Italian Armed Forces (c. WWI)

Bronze Star, United States Armed Forces (1947)

Pulitzer Prize, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1953)

American Academy of Arts and Letters Award of Merit (1954)

Nobel Prize for Literature (1954)

Top Reporter of the Last Hundred Years, *Kansas City Star* (1999)

Timeline

July 21, 1899

Birth of Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Miller Hemingway is born in Oak Park, Illinois, a place he will later describe as a town of "wide lawns and narrow minds." He is the second of six children of Clarence Hemingway, a doctor, and Grace Hall Hemingway, a music teacher.

1905

Boy in Girls' Clothes

From his infancy, Hemingway's mother begins a strange habit of dressing her son like a girl, complete with dresses and long hair, and his older sister as a boy, with overalls and cropped hair. When Ernest is six, she finally ends the charade and allows him to cut his long hair. The damage has already been done. In adulthood, his friend John dos Passos will describe Hemingway as the only man he ever knew who truly hated his mother.

September 1913

Hemingway in High School

Ernest Hemingway enters Oak Park and River Forest High School. He proves to be an excellent student athlete who boxes, plays football and writes for the school newspaper and yearbook.

1917

Cub Reporter

Hemingway graduates from Oak Park and River Forest High School. He opts not to go to college, instead taking a job as a cub reporter for the *Kansas City Star* newspaper. The Star's style guidelines influence his writing style for the rest of his career: Use short sentences, short first paragraphs, and vigorous English.

April 30, 1918

World War I Ambulance Driver

Hemingway leaves the newspaper and attempts to join the U.S. Army so that he can fight in World War I. The Army rejects him because of poor eyesight, so he volunteers as a driver with the Red Cross Ambulance Corps.

July 8, 1918

Hemingway Wounded in Battle

While passing out supplies to soldiers in Italy, Hemingway is seriously injured by a trench mortar and machine gun. The blast leaves shell fragments in his legs. The Italian government awards him a Silver Medal of Military Valor for dragging a wounded Italian soldier to safety after the attack, but his career as an ambulance driver is over. While recuperating in a Milan hospital, Hemingway falls in love with an American nurse six years his senior named Agnes von Kurowsky. They make plans for her to join him in the United States.

January 1919

End of Affair with Agnes von Kurowsky

Hemingway returns to the United States. Agnes soon writes to him to tell him that she has fallen in love with an Italian officer. Hemingway is heartbroken. Their romance inspires the relationship in *A Farewell to Arms*.

1920

Reporter for *Toronto Star*

Hemingway moves to Toronto, Ontario to take a job as a reporter for the *Toronto Star* newspaper. He continues to write for the paper after moving to Chicago later in the year.

September 3, 1921

Hemingway's First Marriage

Hemingway marries Elizabeth Hadley Richardson. She turns out to be the first of four wives.

December 8, 1921

Parisian Expat

The newly married Hemingways set sail for Paris, France. Ernest's friend Sherwood Anderson has recommended Paris to Hemingway, saying his pal will like the expatriate scene there. Ernest works as a foreign correspondent for the *Toronto Star* and soon falls in with a circle of writers and artists that includes Gertrude Stein and Ezra Pound.

1923

Hemingway's First Publication

Hemingway's first book, *Three Stories and Ten Poems*, is published. In the same year, Hemingway brings his pregnant wife to watch a bullfight in Pamplona, Spain, hoping it will toughen up their unborn son. Hemingway's first child, John "Jack" Hemingway, is born on 10 October... but it's unclear what influence the bulls had on him.

May 1925

Hemingway and Fitzgerald

Ernest Hemingway meets F. Scott Fitzgerald at the Dingo Bar in Paris, just two weeks after the publication of *The Great Gatsby*. Their friendship will later fall apart in spectacular fashion, thanks to a toxic combination of professional rivalry and a feud between Hemingway and Fitzgerald's wife Zelda.

1926

The Sun Also Rises

Hemingway's first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, is published. The novel is critically acclaimed and commercially successful.

1927

Divorce and Remarriage

Ernest Hemingway divorces Elizabeth Hadley on 4 April. One month later he marries Pauline

Pfeiffer, a fashion writer. The same year sees publication of his short story collection *Men Without Women*.

1928

Key West

Hemingway and Pauline leave Paris and move to a house in Key West, Florida. Ernest lives there on and off through the 1950s and completes the majority of his life's writing at the house. The couple's son Patrick is born on 28 June. Hemingway's father Clarence commits suicide on 6 December.

1929

A Farewell to Arms

A Farewell to Arms is published. The novel's success makes Hemingway financially independent.

November 12, 1931

Birth of Gregory Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway's third and last child, Gregory Hemingway, is born. Hemingway calls the boy "Gig"; in adulthood, as a cross-dresser, Gregory chooses to call himself Gloria. This enrages his ultra-macho father.

1932

Death in the Afternoon

Hemingway goes to Spain to research bullfighting for *Death in the Afternoon*, his critically lauded nonfiction book on the subject.

1933

African Safari

Pauline and Ernest travel to Kenya for a ten-week safari. Hemingway falls in love with the continent. His subsequent trips there inspire many works of fiction and nonfiction, including the 1935 book *Green Hills of Africa* and the short stories "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber."

1937

Reports from the Spanish Civil War

The year sees the publication of his novel *To Have and Have Not*. Hemingway travels to Spain to report on Spanish Civil War for the North American Newspaper Alliance. He develops a strong anti-Franco stance and narrates the antifascist propaganda film "The Spanish Earth."

1938

The Fifth Column and the First Forty-Nine Stories

"The Fifth Column," Hemingway's only full-length play, and the first 49 short stories of his career are published in the aptly named book *The Fifth Column and the First Forty-Nine Stories*.

1940

Divorce and Remarriage, Again

Hemingway divorces Pauline on 4 November. Less than three weeks later, he marries the journalist Martha Gellhorn. The couple settles in Finca Vigia, the Cuban estate where Hemingway will live, off and on, for twenty years. The Spanish Civil War novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is published in the same year.

December 8, 1941

Submarine Hunter

The United States enters World War II. Hemingway volunteers for the Navy, outfitting his fishing boat *Pilar* with guns to hunt for German submarines off the coast of Cuba. Though he never fires at one, the military will still award him a Bronze Star for his service in 1947.

1944

Professional Rivalry With Martha Gellhorn

At his wife's urging, Hemingway goes to Europe as a war correspondent for *Collier's* magazine. Professional rivalry with Martha, who is also an accomplished war correspondent, soon leads to the breakup of their marriage.

December 21, 1945

Third Divorce

Ernest Hemingway divorces Martha Gellhorn.

1946

Marriage to Mary Welsh

Ernest marries another war correspondent, Mary Welsh, his fourth and final wife, on 14 March. On 19 August, she miscarries due to an ectopic pregnancy. The couple will produce no children together.

1950

Across the River and Into the Trees

Hemingway's novel *Across the River and Into the Trees* is published. It is the most poorly reviewed novel of his career.

June 28, 1951

Death of Hemingway's Mother

Hemingway's mother Grace dies.

September 1, 1952

The Old Man and the Sea

The novella *The Old Man and the Sea* is published in *Life* magazine. The story of Santiago the fisherman brings Hemingway commercial and critical success.

1953

Pulitzer Prize

Ernest Hemingway is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *The Old Man and the Sea*.

December 10, 1954

Nobel Prize

Ernest Hemingway is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the fifth American author to receive the award. Hemingway is still recovering from serious injuries sustained in two separate plane crashes and a bushfire accident earlier in the year and is unable to travel to Stockholm to receive the award. The American ambassador John C. Cabot accepts the prize on his behalf and reads his speech aloud.

1961

Exodus From Cuba

Hemingway leaves Cuba forever following the 1959 revolution in which his acquaintance Fidel Castro leads communist revolutionaries to power. The Cuban government takes possession of his home, Finca Vigia, and will later turn it into a Hemingway museum

July 2, 1961

Suicide

Suffering from depression, alcoholism, and numerous physical ailments, Ernest Hemingway commits suicide with a shotgun at his home in Ketchum, Idaho. He receives a Catholic burial, as the church judges him not to have been in his right mind at the time of his suicide. He is buried in Ketchum.

1970

Islands in the Stream

Hemingway's novel *Islands in the Stream* is published posthumously.

1972

The Nick Adams Stories

Hemingway's short story collection *The Nick Adams Stories* is published posthumously.

1986

The Garden of Eden

Hemingway's novel *The Garden of Eden* is published posthumously.

1999

True at First Light

True at First Light: a Fictional Memoir, edited by Hemingway's son Patrick, is published posthumously.

Citations

¹ Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast* (New York: Scribner, 1964), 12.

² Ernest Hemingway, "Banquet Speech," Nobel Foundation, http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1954/hemingway-speech.html, Accessed 18 February 2009.

³ Neil A. Grauer, "Remembering Papa," *Cigar Aficionado*, July/August 1999. http://www.cigaraficionado.com/Cigar/CA_Profiles/People_Profile/0,2540,15,00.html, Accessed 18 February 2009.

⁴ Stephen Amidon, "I didn't like sex at all," *Salon*, <http://www.salon.com/books/review/2006/08/12/gellhorn/>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

⁵ Megan Floyd Desnoyers, "Ernest Hemingway: A Storyteller's Legacy," *JFK Presidential*

Library and Museum,
http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/Hemingway+Archive/Online+Resources/eh_storyteller.htm, Accessed 18 February 2009.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Megan Floyd Desnoyers, "Ernest Hemingway: A Storyteller's Legacy," JFK Presidential Library and Museum,
http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/Hemingway+Archive/Online+Resources/eh_storyteller.htm, Accessed 18 February 2009.

⁹ A Moveable Feast, p. 18.

¹⁰ Martha Gellhorn, *Travels With Myself and Another* (Eland, 1978).

¹¹ Megan Floyd Desnoyers, "Ernest Hemingway: A Storyteller's Legacy," JFK Presidential Library and Museum,
http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/Hemingway+Archive/Online+Resources/eh_storyteller.htm, Accessed 18 February 2009.

¹² Anders Osterling, "Presentation Speech," Nobel Foundation,
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1954/press.html, Accessed 18 February 2009.

¹³ "Banquet Speech."

¹⁴ Dianne Johnson, "Hemingway," *The New York Times*, 19 July 1987,
<http://www.times.com/books/99/07/04/specials/hemingway-lynn.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

¹⁵ "Banquet Speech."

¹⁶ Grauer, "Remembering Papa."

¹⁷ Anders Hallengren, "A Case of Identity: Ernest Hemingway," Nobel Foundation,
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/articles/hallengren/index.html, Accessed 18 February 2009.

¹⁸ Thomas Putnam, "Hemingway on War and its Aftermath," National Archives,
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/spring/hemingway.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

¹⁹ "Hemingway's Prize-Winning Works Reflected Preoccupation With Life and Death," *The New York Times*, 3 July 1961, <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0721.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Grauer, "Remembering Papa."

²³ Grauer, "Remembering Papa."

²⁴ Grauer, "Remembering Papa."

²⁵ Ernest Hemingway, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," *The Short Stories* (Scribner, 1995), 60.

²⁶ *The Short Stories*, 213.

²⁷ Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon*, Library of Congress, <http://memory.loc.gov/mm/mem/today/jul21.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

²⁸ Orville Prescott, "Books of the Times," *The New York Times*, 28 August 1952. <http://www.nytimes.com/books/99/07/04/specials/hemingway-oldman.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

²⁹ "Ernest Hemingway," *The Story and Its Writer*, ed. Ann Charters (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999), 652.

³⁰ Hallengren.

³¹ Robert W. Trogdon, *Ernest Hemingway: A Literary Reference*, http://books.google.com/books?id=o22F6L5DSSIC&dq=hemingway+Anything+you+know+you+can+eliminate+and+it+only+strengthens+your+iceberg&source=gbbs_summary_s&cad=0, Accessed 18 February 2009.

³² Ernest Hemingway, et al, *The Only Thing That Counts: The Ernest Hemingway-Maxwell Perkins Correspondence* (University of South Carolina Press, 1999), 335.

³³ "Simpson's Contemporary Quotations," *Bartleby*, <http://www.bartleby.com/63/2/6902.html>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

³⁴ *A Moveable Feast*, 12.

³⁵ "Banquet Speech."

³⁶ Stephen Amidon, "I didn't like sex at all," *Salon*, <http://www.salon.com/books/review/2006/08/12/gellhorn/>, Accessed 18 February 2009.

³⁷ Osterling, "Presentation Speech."

³⁸ *The Short Stories*, unnumbered page.