



Ernest Hemingway

(1899-1961)

Oak Park

- Born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1899 (a Chicago suburb)
- Father was Clarence Hemingway, an obstetrician
- Mother Grace Hall Hemingway, a music teacher





Childhood

- Some biographers claim Grace was domineering
- Taught her children reading, art, and music
- Possibility of Grace as lesbian?
 - See Jim Hutchisson's biography, *Ernest Hemingway: A New Life*, pp. 39-40

Family

- Older sister
Marcelline—1898
- Younger sisters
Ursula and
Madelaine (Sunny)—
1902, 1904
- Carol and
Leicester—1911,
1915



Michigan

- Family bought a vacation cabin in Michigan
- Spent summers fishing, hunting, often with his father
- Fictionalized these portions of his life in *In Our Time*



Kansas City Star



- At age 18, went to work as a cub reporter on the Kansas City Star
- Learned rules for writing that he would use throughout his career

Kansas City Star rules for writing

- Below are excerpts from *The Kansas City Star* stylebook that Ernest Hemingway once credited with containing "the best rules I ever learned for the business of writing."
- Use short sentences
- Use short first paragraphs
- Use vigorous English
- Be positive, not negative. Never use old slang.
- Eliminate every superfluous word

Italy, 1918

- Unfit for military service because of a defective eye
- Joined the American Red Cross as an ambulance driver at age 18
- Sent to Milan, Italy in 1918





War Injury

- Injured by a mortar shell and machine gun fire while delivering chocolates and cigarettes to men at front
- Fictionalized in *A Farewell to Arms*
- Awarded silver medal for valor, though ambiguity about actual event





Agnes Von Kurowsky

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- In hospital, met Agnes Von Kurowsky, a Red Cross nurse
 - Love affair fictionalized in *A Farewell to Arms*
 - Von Kurowsky broke off their relationship after Hemingway returned to Oak Park

Hadley

- Married Hadley Richardson in 1921; eight years his senior
- The young couple sailed for Paris in December of that year
- Famous incident of lost manuscripts

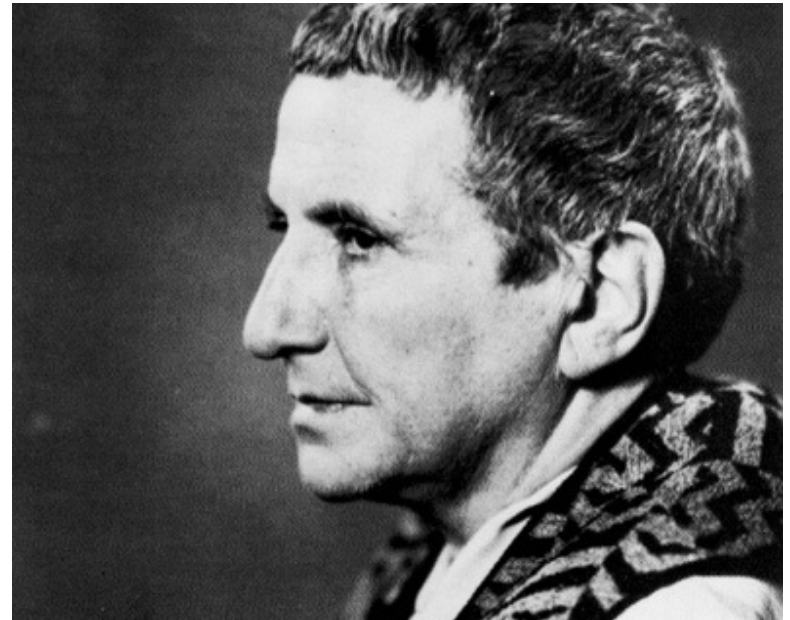




Expatriot Writers



- American writer Sherwood Anderson as literary mentor (until *Torrents of Spring*)
- Gave Hemingway an introduction letter to Gertrude Stein



Expatriot Years

- Became involved with a group of American ex-patriot writers living in Paris—F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, etc. Met James Joyce, other well-known modernist authors.
- Lost Generation



Greco-Turkish War

- Covered the Greco-Turkish War for the *Toronto Star* soon after his arrival in Paris.
- Incidents from the war make their way into *In Our Time*





In Our Time

- Published a collection in Paris called “Three Stories and Ten Poems” in 1923
- *in our time* published in Paris in 1924
- *In Our Time* (revised version of earlier work) published in U.S. in 1925

The Sun Also Rises

- *The Sun Also Rises*, Hemingway's first novel, published in 1926 to much acclaim.
- At least partly autobiographical in nature



Pauline and Catholicism

- In 1927, Hemingway divorced Hadley and married his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer
- Converted to Catholicism



Late 20's

- Publication of short story collection *Men Without Women* in 1927
- Hemingway and Pauline leave Paris in 1928, move to Key West, Florida
- Father's suicide, also in 1928



A Farewell to Arms

- Pauline gives birth to second son Patrick, after hard labor (first son John, “Bumby” born to Hadley in 1923)
- Caesarean birth source material for *A Farewell to Arms*, published in 1929





Papa

- Key West are the “Papa” years
- Fishing, safaris, bull fights in Spain
- Growth of celebrity



Spanish Civil War

- In 1937, went to Spain to cover the Spanish Civil War
- Left the Catholic Church
- 1940 divorce from Pauline; marriage to war correspondent Martha Gelhorn
- Publication, also in 1940, of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

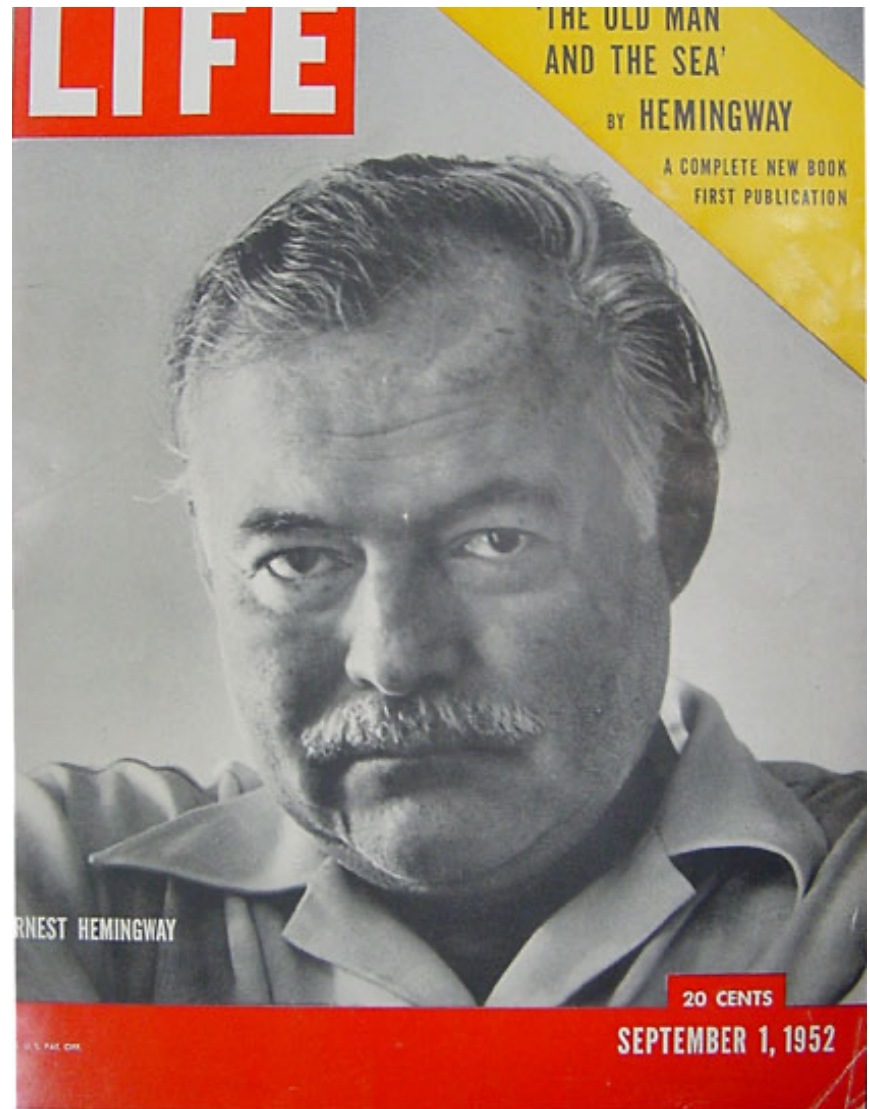
World War II

- During World War II, Hemingway's boat *The Pilar*, involved in submarine hunting
- Also worked as a war correspondent



1940's and 1950's

- Divorced Martha Gelhorn after four years.
- Married war correspondent Mary Welsh in 1946
- Published *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1952
- Won Pulitzer Prize in 1953 and Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954
- Seriously injured in two successive plane crashes in Africa



Cuba

- Hemingway also owned a villa in Cuba, the Fina Vigia, during the 30's, 40's and 50's where he wrote.
- Forced to sell in late-50's when relations with Cuba become strained



Suicide

- Suffering from various illnesses (including alcoholism) and depression, shot himself to death in 1961 in Ketchum, Idaho.





Make it New!



Hemingway's Style

- Simple vocabulary--common words ("nothing in *In Our Time* that someone with a 4th grade education couldn't understand")
- Short sentences, at least in early work
 - p. 139 in "Big Two-Hearted River"
- Lack of adjectives
- Poetic repetition (from Stein?)
- Choice of a few significant details, focus on the visual
 - p. 21 in *In Our Time*
- Irony and understatement



More about Style

- Emotions displaced onto natural worlds
- *In media res* beginning—withholds information from readers
- Lack of authorial moralizing, judgment—flat
- Makes readers interpret, infer a great deal, thus ambiguous

A black and white portrait of Ernest Hemingway, shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark military uniform with a high collar and a pocket with a striped insignia. He has short, dark hair and is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression.

The Iceberg Principle

“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 as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water.”

--From *Death in the Afternoon*

Examples:

- Beginning of “Soldier’s Home”
- “Out of Season”