Ernest Hemingway Biography

A. Ernest Hemingway was renowned author who used his life experiences to create his many books. All throughout his life, he would use the experiences he had gone through, and he would put his beliefs to page. The first profound impact Hemingway’s life had on his writing career can be seen in the influence his first job had on his writing career. His first job with the *Star’s* newspaper taught him to write using short sentences, short paragraphs, and vigorous english.Shmoop.com highlights thatHemingwayalso used his dramatic heartbreak over a nurse named Agnes to inspire his book, *A Farewell to Arms* (par 7).This is just the beginning of how Hemingway brought his knowledge of the world, and put it to page through his eyes. Ernest was known for his four marriages, but what some do not know, is that he used those experiences to write his stories. One example in particular is, after his divorce with his second wife Elizabeth Hadley, he wrote a short story entitled, *Men without Women*. So when discussing the most important life experiences that shaped Hemingway’s writing career, arguments can be made on which life experience shaped his career the most, due to his writing style of incorporating his life journey into his writings.

B. Hemingway was a part of The lost Generation. The lost generation refers to a group of famous American writers who lived in Paris and other parts of Europe, who saw the end of WWI to the beginning of the Great Depression. Hemingway was known for his minimalistic style. This is when the author focuses on surface elements without out right discussing the concealed themes of the story.

Hemingway said that only the tip of the iceberg showed in fiction—your reader will see only what is above the water—but the knowledge that you have about your character that never makes it into the story acts as the bulk of the iceberg. And that is what gives your story weight and gravitas.

— Jenna Blum in The Author at Work, 2013[9]

C. Cliff notes on describing Hemingway’s writing style says, “A typical Hemingway novel or short story is written in simple, direct, unadorned prose. Possibly, the style developed because of his early journalistic training” (par. 2) Myenglishpages.com says that Hemingway’s writing style is called the Iceberg theory. As he started writing short stories, he kept a minimalistic style.

D. Hemingway greatly influenced writing, more than anything else. He used short, abrupt sentences, or multiple short phrases joined by conjunctions. Cliffnotes states that Hemingway also had “an emphasis on nouns and verbs rather than adjectives and adverbs” (par. 7). He also used less adjectives and adverbs, focusing more on the nouns and verbs of a sentence. He liked to use the same words and phrases, which was actually a trait he picked up from Gertrude Stein. This limited palette was influenced by his fluency of three romance languages, which had a limited vocabulary, but was just as-if not more- expressive than the English language. Many tried to imitate his style, but they could not achieve the emotion and visualizations that Hemingway so gracefully conveyed. Later authors (1970-80s) called his style outdated and even distasteful, and they became known as minimalists.

E. Interesting/Fun Fact

* “During his life, Hemingway survived exposure to anthrax, malaria, skin cancer, and pneumonia. He lived through diabetes, two plane crashes, a ruptured kidney, hepatitis, a ruptured spleen, a fractured skull, [and] a crushed vertebra” (5).
* “His mother, Grace, was the domineering type. She wanted a daughter, not a son. To placate herself after Ernest was born, she would dress him up in pink, flowery dresses and call him "Ernestine".” (2).
* “He wanted to fight in World War I, but was denied due to his wretched eye sight. However, he convinced the military to make him an ambulance driver. Unfortunately, during the war he was wounded from mortar fire.”(3)
* Scott Fitzgerald wrote Hemingway a ten page letter telling him why he should quit *Farewell to Arms,* to which Hemingway simply responded with “Kiss my [butt]” (par. 6), according to Kill/Adjectives *15 Interesting Facts About Ernest Hemingway.* According to this article, he also “stole a urinal from his favorite bar” because he thought he had spent enough money there to own it.
* Ernest proves to be an excellent student athlete in high school, who boxes, plays football and writes for the school newspaper and yearbook.
* Hemingway brings his pregnant wife, Elizabeth, to watch a bullfight in Pamplona, Spain, hoping it will toughen up their unborn son.



G. Links

A. <https://www.shmoop.com/ernest-hemingway/timeline.html>

B. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iceberg_Theory?scrlybrkr=3b991bee>

<https://www.biography.com/people/ernest-hemingway-9334498>

<https://quizlet.com/72140316/literary-movements-flash-cards/>

C.<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/h/hemingways-short-stories/critical-essay/hemingways-writing-style>

<http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/reading-ernest-hemingway-style.php>

D. <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/f/a-farewell-to-arms/critical-essays/the-hemingway-influence>

E. <http://www.killadj.com/blog/2014/03/03/15-interesting-facts-ernest-hemingway/>

<http://www.neatorama.com/2017/07/19/22-Facts-About-Ernest-Hemingway/>