

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway Study Guide

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway by Ernest Hemingway

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
"The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber".....	6
"The Capital of the World".....	7
"The Snows of Kilimanjaro".....	8
"Old Man at the Bridge".....	9
"Up in Michigan".....	10
"On the Quai at Smyrna".....	11
"Indian Camp".....	12
"The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife".....	13
"The End of Something".....	14
"The Three-Day Blow".....	15
"The Battler".....	16
"A Very Short Story".....	17
"Soldier's Home".....	18
"The Revolutionist".....	19
"Mr. and Mrs. Elliot".....	20
"Cat in the Rain".....	21
"Out of Season".....	22
"Cross-Country Snow".....	23
"My Old Man".....	24
"Big Two-Hearted River".....	25
"The Undefeated".....	26
"In Another Country".....	27
"Hills Like White Elephants".....	28



["The Killers"..... 29](#)

["Che Ti Dice La Patria?"..... 30](#)

["Fifty Grand"..... 31](#)

["A Simple Enquiry"..... 32](#)

["Ten Indians"..... 33](#)

["A Canary for One"..... 34](#)

["An Alpine Idyll"..... 35](#)

["A Pursuit Race"..... 36](#)

["Today is Friday"..... 37](#)

["Banal Story"..... 38](#)

["Now I Lay Me"..... 39](#)

["After the Storm"..... 40](#)

["A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"..... 41](#)

["The Light of the World"..... 42](#)

["God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"..... 43](#)

["The Sea Change"..... 44](#)

["A Way You'll Never Be"..... 45](#)

["The Mother of a Queen"..... 46](#)

["One Reader Writes"..... 47](#)

["Homage to Switzerland"..... 48](#)

["A Day's Wait"..... 49](#)

["A Natural History of the Dead"..... 50](#)

["Wine of Wyoming"..... 51](#)

["The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio"..... 52](#)

["Fathers and Sons"..... 53](#)

["One Trip Across"..... 54](#)



["The Tradesman's Return"..... 55](#)

["The Denunciation"..... 56](#)

["The Butterfly and the Tank"..... 57](#)

["Night Before Battle"..... 58](#)

["Under the Ridge"..... 59](#)

["Nobody Ever Dies"..... 60](#)

["The Good Lion"..... 61](#)

["The Faithful Bull"..... 62](#)

["Get a Seeing-Eyed Dog"..... 63](#)

["A Man of the World"..... 64](#)

["Summer People"..... 65](#)

["The Last Good Country"..... 66](#)

["An African Story"..... 67](#)

["The Train Trip"..... 68](#)

["The Porter"..... 69](#)

["Black Ass at the Cross Roads"..... 70](#)

["Landscape with Figures"..... 71](#)

["I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something"..... 72](#)

["Great News from the Mainland"..... 73](#)

["The Strange Country"..... 74](#)

[Characters..... 75](#)

[Objects/Places..... 84](#)

[Social Concerns/Themes/Characters..... 87](#)

[Themes..... 90](#)

[Style..... 93](#)

[Quotes..... 95](#)



Topics for Discussion..... 98
Copyright Information..... 99



"The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

"The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" Summary

Ernest Hemingway's journalistic style makes many of his short stories seem more fact than fiction. Concentrating on his experiences during World War I, World War II, and the Spanish Civil War, Hemingway describes the unforgiving nature of war and the lasting effects it has on those involved. Exploring his fascination with other versions of manhood, he writes detailed descriptions of hunting, fishing, bullfighting, and other confrontations between man and nature. His crisp style presents events objectively while it underscores the inability of his characters to forge deep relationships.

Francis Macomber and his wife, Margot, are on safari in Africa, led by their guide, Wilson. Francis and Margot's marriage is constantly on the rocks, and this safari trip has been no exception. During a lion hunt, Francis gets scared and retreats after wounding a lion. He uses many bullets to finally kill the lion, and ends up disfiguring the corpse. The next day, the group goes buffalo hunting. After killing one buffalo, Francis grows confident and is ready to hunt again. When he goes after another wounded buffalo, he misses. His wife, however, shoots him in the back of the head, claiming that she was trying to protect him from the charging buffalo. Wilson, the guide, implies that the shot was intentional.

"The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" Analysis

Francis Macomber is one of the many Hemingway characters that is not truly a man until he becomes a successful hunter. All those around him comment on his initial cowardice with the lion. His wife, Margot, uses his cowardice to imply that he is not a real man. On the buffalo hunt, however, his first kill fills him with confidence and changes him internally. Everyone around him sees the change in him. His wife, Margot, it is assumed, shoots him because she knows he will not go back to the life he had with her now that he knows what it is like to really be a man. Therefore, Francis Macomber is only truly alive during the short period between his successful shot at the buffalo and his wife's successful shot at him.

"The Capital of the World"

"The Capital of the World" Summary

The Luarca Hotel caters to failed bullfighters and other members of the bullfighting profession. Paco is a new waiter who has just arrived in Madrid from the countryside. His two sisters work as maids in the hotel. They constantly fend off the sexual advances of the men who stay at the hotel. Paco dreams of being a bullfighter and pretends to bullfight when there are not any customers in the hotel restaurant. Enrique, the dishwasher, makes fun of Paco and challenges him to a fake bullfight in which Enrique holds knives like bull horns and charges at Paco. Enrique accidentally stabs Paco during the game. Paco dies from his wounds, waiting for the ambulance to come. The other inhabitants and workers at the hotel continue in their routines.

"The Capital of the World" Analysis

The danger and allure of bullfighting capture the hearts of many characters. For the waiter, Paco, the dream leads to the accident that causes his death. The two boys are symbolic of the audience in a real bullfight, watching the spectacle without realizing the true danger. Ironically enough, Paco's real experience with bullfighting comes through his interaction with the customers at the hotel, all of whom are disillusioned with the profession.



"The Snows of Kilimanjaro"

"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" Summary

Harry is dying from a gangrenous leg wound while on safari in Africa. He regrets all the stories from his life that he never wrote about. He thinks of these stories as he lies dying, accompanied by his wife. Henry realizes that he is going to die, although his wife insists that help will come the next day. Henry regrets that he did not write the stories of his youth, and yet he is not sorry that he never wrote about the wealthy friends he has now. Death creeps up on him like a physical presence. In his passage into death, he dreams that the pilot arrives and carries him up to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. During the night, Harry's wife finds his dead body.

During his struggle with death, Harry remembers many stories that he never wrote about. These include the many women who he had loved and fought with in the past. He remembers the various places he lived in as a child, as well as the events and places of his travels, especially in Europe between the two World Wars. Throughout these memories, he places the blame on his wife for giving him a life of leisure that distracted him from his writing.

"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" Analysis

In a strongly autobiographical story, Hemingway explores his own understanding of himself as a writer. In real life, Hemingway was married to a rich woman who paid to take the two of them on safari in Africa. In this way, Harry and his rich wife are very similar to Hemingway and his own real wife at the time. Hemingway explores the regrets of a writer in not writing all the stories that he wished to. The parallel between Hemingway and Harry is meaningful in this way, as it offers the reader an insight into Hemingway's own regrets as a writer, a husband, and a hunter.

The hyena circles the camp as a symbol of death. Harry recognizes that the hyena means death and welcomes it as a physical presence and partner during the final moments of his life.



"Old Man at the Bridge"

"Old Man at the Bridge" Summary

The narrator is at a bridge, watching refugees flee before the advance of the Fascist army in Italy. An old man has stopped to rest next to the bridge. The narrator directs the man to continue in order to avoid the approaching military force. The old man explains that he has left his home village, where he was retired and was looking after animals. At the age of seventy-six, the man has nowhere to go and no one to turn to, and he has given up on escaping from the army.

"Old Man at the Bridge" Analysis

The old man represents all the innocent casualties of war. He has no involvement in the war and supports neither side. His quiet life is upturned and most likely ended by the military actions of others. He has given up control of his own life and accepts that he does not belong to the new era. His position by the bridge reflects his fatalistic opinion of his position.



"Up in Michigan"

"Up in Michigan" Summary

Jim Gilmore buys the blacksmith business in a small Michigan town. Liz Coates, the waitress at D.J. Smith's shop, develops a crush on him. Jim and the other men of the town go deer hunting. When Jim returns, Liz is excited to see him but disappointed that he does not show any excitement to see her. That evening, the men get very drunk. Liz waits up for the group to leave the shop, hoping to get another look at Jim before he goes. Jim comes out, still drunk, but very happy. He hugs and kisses Liz and invites her on a walk. During the walk, Jim hugs and kisses her. Stopping in a warehouse, Jim's affection becomes stronger until he has sex with Liz over her protests. After the sex, Jim passes out. Liz cannot wake him and instead wraps her coat around him and goes home to bed.

"Up in Michigan" Analysis

The relationship between Jim and Liz is part of a Hemingway pattern in which there is little connection between the man and the woman other than, what can be described as often awkward, sexual contact. There is no romance between them, and their relationship is reduced to a sexual encounter that one of them did not enjoy and the other will not remember.

"On the Quai at Smyrna"

"On the Quai at Smyrna" Summary

The narrator is with a group of soldiers in Turkey describing the aftermath of a disaster. Women cling to dead babies, and old people die quickly and suddenly. Women boarding the evacuation boat give birth on board. Farm animals that cannot go on board are injured and drowned in shallow water.

"On the Quai at Smyrna" Analysis

The narrator's commentary on the events is largely ironic. In describing chaos as though it were planned and reasonable, the narrator shows the absurdity of both human nature and the reaction of people to a disastrous situation. The irony takes away the personal qualities of the individuals, while highlighting the absurdness of the events that are happening to them.

"Indian Camp"

"Indian Camp" Summary

Nick, his father, and his Uncle George cross the lake to attend to a sick Indian woman in an Indian camp. The woman has been in labor for two days. Her husband lies in another bed, listening to his wife's screams. Nick's father worries that the birth is breech and eventually he does a C Section to deliver the baby. There is no anesthetic and the woman screams as the men in the room laugh inappropriately at the pain experienced by the woman. The father sews up the incision, but Nick does not want to watch. On their way out, they realize that the husband of the woman has killed himself during the surgery. Nick's father regrets having brought his son. They go home.

"Indian Camp" Analysis

The attitude of the men toward the woman is particularly cruel. The woman screams while her body is cut open to deliver the baby and the men around her laugh. Nick's father and uncle are also involved in making light of the woman's pain. They are more interested in telling a story to their friends than in the pain that the woman is experiencing. When they discover that the woman's husband has killed himself rather than listen to his wife's screams, they are reminded about the reality of life that surrounds them. Quickly, they feel remorse over having laughed during the surgery.

Nick's experiences as a young boy foreshadow the complicated relationship he develops with his father. On the one hand, he admires his father for his skill in all things. At the same time, his father's emotionless approach to life affects how Nick interacts with other people. The continued development of Nick Adams will be effected by all of his life experiences described in the series of stories written about him. It is assumed that the character of Nick is heavily based on Hemingway himself.

"The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife"

"The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife" Summary

Dick Bolton and his son have come to cut up driftwood for Dr. Adams, Nick's father. The wood they are collecting is made up of logs that have been abandoned by the logging company. Dr. Adams and Dick have an argument over the logs. Dick claims that they are stolen and therefore should not be gathered. Dr. Adams believes that Dick is trying to get out of paying his debt to him. Dr. Adams goes inside the house and talks to his wife while he cleans his gun. Then he goes out with his son, Nick, to hunt.

"The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife" Analysis

The contrast between Dr. Adams and his wife is shown in the way they care for their possessions. Dr. Adams has many unwrapped medical journals that he has essentially put aside. Mrs. Adams, on the other hand, has the Bible and her Christian Science newsletters next to her bed where she looks at them all the time. In this way, Mrs. Adams shows that her interests continue wherever she is, while her husband is not really interested in his profession. The relationship between Dr. and Mrs. Adams in this short story foreshadows many of the relationship issues of their son, Nick, who will also set up strong barriers between himself and female relationships.

"The End of Something"

"The End of Something" Summary

Horton's Bay used to be a mill town, but the mill has recently been deserted. Nick and Marjorie row on the lake, setting up fishing rods for trout. Marjorie enjoys spending time together with Nick. When they sit down to a picnic lunch, Nick picks a fight to make Marjorie leave him and end their budding relationship. She takes the boat and tells Nick to walk home alone. After she leaves, another friend, Bill, comes along to confirm that Nick has broken off the relationship.

"The End of Something" Analysis

This story shows the beginning patterns of Nick Adams' life. His relationship with a girl, Marjorie, has become too emotional for him and he breaks it off for no reason. His real relationship is with his male friend, Bill. Nick Adams, like many characters in Hemingway short stories, is unable to develop a strong relationship with a female, and falls back on his male relationships for his real emotional support.

"The Three-Day Blow"

"The Three-Day Blow" Summary

During a long rainstorm, Bill and Nick spend time at Bill's house. They discuss baseball and the few books that they have both read. They drink whiskey and water and talk about their fathers and their fathers' views on life. The two boys are trying to behave in a mature manner. After finishing the whiskey, they move on to Scotch. Bill brings up Nick's failed relationship with Marjorie and congratulates him on breaking it off before having to make a commitment to her. Nick is sad and confused about Marjorie. He fears that he has lost everything. He comforts himself with the hope that it will all turn out all right.

"The Three-Day Blow" Analysis

The title itself is ironic in that it refers both to the storm outside and Nick's confusion over his break up with Marjorie. His father and his male friends define Nick's emotional development. He has a difficult time submitting himself to his friend's opinion, but does not personally believe all the things that his friend says to comfort him. He and Bill play at being men. The things that they define as male, including heavy drinking and a concentration on hunting and emotional independence, continue to influence Nick's understanding of his own masculinity throughout his life.

"The Battler"

"The Battler" Summary

Nick is thrown out of a moving train and comes to the bottom of the train tracks. On his way back, he meets a homeless man, Adolph Francis, who is deformed. Another man, Bugs, joins them and they have dinner together. Suddenly, Francis turns on Nick and threatens to hurt him. Bugs knocks out Francis and explains to Nick that Francis is crazy because his wife left him. Nick continues toward the town, alone.

"The Battler" Analysis

Nick's independence is further tested during his time on the road. His attempts to form relationships with strangers are problematic and he is unable to handle the changing emotions of those around him. Adolph Francis' life provides an interesting symbolic contrast for Nick, who often has problems with women. The symbolism is extended further in the problems that Nick has in developing relationships with women he is related to.



"A Very Short Story"

"A Very Short Story" Summary

Nick recovers in a hospital and begins a romantic relationship with Luz, the nurse. They make plans to marry after the war when Nick returns to the U.S. and finds a stable job. However, in the time that they are apart, Luz has an affair with an Italian soldier and calls off her engagement to Nick. Nick never speaks to her again and loses himself in a life of womanizing and alcoholism.

"A Very Short Story" Analysis

Nick's relationships with women continue to be problematic. His relationship with Luz is formed in the hospital, where Luz is in a caretaker role. As a caretaker, Luz takes on the mother/sister role that is necessary for Nick to trust her and to fall in love. Nick sees Luz's change of heart as a betrayal. Nick's reaction is to reduce his relationships with women to only a sexual level. This in itself symbolizes Nick's understanding of sex in terms of reward and punishment rather than emotional or romantic connection.



"Soldier's Home"

"Soldier's Home" Summary

Harold Krebs returns late from World War I after all the cheerful homecomings have ended. He lives with his parents, but he feels empty and unconnected to anyone or anything. He feels ashamed that he does not have any war stories to tell or bond him to the community. His parents are worried that he is not adjusting to life after the war. His mother makes him pray and he feels his whole life is a disappointing lie. He leaves his hometown so he can be somewhere unconnected.

"Soldier's Home" Analysis

Harold represents many soldiers who return home from war disillusioned and unable to adjust to civilian life. Harold's war experiences have not been life changing, other than to make him feel disappointed that they are not life changing. Harold does not have the war experiences that make civilian communities proud or interested in him. His war experience has not bonded him to other soldiers either, but sets him apart as someone who was not directly involved in the biggest experience of his own life.

"The Revolutionist"

"The Revolutionist" Summary

A communist revolutionary travels from Hungary through Italy on the aid of revolutionary friends. He has suffered some torture in Hungary but is uninterested in sharing his story. The narrator hears later that he is in jail in Switzerland.

"The Revolutionist" Analysis

The Revolutionist provides a contrast to Soldier's Home. While Harold has no experiences to share and cannot connect with people, the title character of the Revolutionist has many experiences but is not interested in sharing them. Instead, he wants to interact in the mundane ways that Harold could not.

"Mr. and Mrs. Elliot"

"Mr. and Mrs. Elliot" Summary

Hubert Elliot is a young poet at Harvard who has saved himself for marriage. At the age of twenty-five, he meets forty year old Cornelia Calutina, the owner of a tea shop. They get married and travel abroad. At first, they try to have a baby in the various places on their trip through France before settling into a house in Paris. Their sex life drops off quickly and soon they are sleeping in separate bedrooms. Hubert writes poetry and Cornelia sleeps with one of her female friends.

"Mr. and Mrs. Elliot" Analysis

The relationship between men and women is reduced to sexuality as it generally is in the work of Hemingway. However, in this story, there is a twist, in which the man is sexually innocent and defines his relationships by mutual sexual innocence. Unlike other male characters in Hemingway's work, Hubert's sexual morality is strongly linked to femininity. On the other hand, Cornelia plays a very maternal role, as do many women in other Hemingway stories. Their relationship is set up on a premise of sexual innocence, but the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Elliot develops as most marriages in Hemingway's written works do. Mr. and Mrs. Elliot's marriage quickly loses all emotional connection and the two halves of the marriage settle into separate lives.

"Cat in the Rain"

"Cat in the Rain" Summary

An American couple is staying at an Italian hotel. The wife becomes obsessed with a cat caught out in the rain. She goes out to rescue it but cannot find it. When she returns to her room, she complains about her life. The maid comes up with the cat a few minutes later.

"Cat in the Rain" Analysis

The cat that the American wife sees outside becomes a symbol for her own femininity and fertility. The American wife pursues the cat because she feels that these qualities are missing from her own life. This is further shown in the way she evaluates her appearance, wanting to appear more feminine. The American husband, on the other hand, stands in the way of her desires, discouraging her from seeking the cat and urging her to be content with the life that they have together. One of the many unspoken issues in many of Hemingway's stories about young, uncommunicative couples is the implication that there has been an abortion at some point in the relationship, which has divided the two partners.



"Out of Season"

"Out of Season" Summary

A young couple is staying at a hotel on the Italian side of the Italy-Germany border. Peduzzi, the gardener, has arranged to take the two of them on a fishing trip. This trip is illegal and there is the potential that the gamekeeper will arrest the group. The couple and Peduzzi do not understand each other. The couple does not enjoy the trip. The wife gives up and returns to the hotel. Peduzzi and the husband have no success in fishing. Peduzzi tries to convince the husband to try again the next day, but the husband tries to get out of it.

"Out of Season" Analysis

In many Hemingway stories, a young group of travelers has a difficult time interacting with and understanding the local people. In this story, the young people do not understand the importance of the trip to Peduzzi. Peduzzi hopes to rebuild his life as a travel guide. In his over-exuberance in this role, he offends the young couple that could determine his success in this new life. The young couple attempt to be polite, but they do not really understand how to communicate with Peduzzi. At the same time, Peduzzi tries to help the couple as much as he can, but he does not know what they really want.



"Cross-Country Snow"

"Cross-Country Snow" Summary

Nick and his friend, George, go skiing in Switzerland. They stop at a little pub to discuss their future. The waitress at their table is pregnant, as is a woman at home, called Helen. George explains that he needs to return to school despite Nick's insistence that he stay and ski across Europe. After they finish their drinks, they return home for the night, looking forward to the skiing they will do the next day.

"Cross-Country Snow" Analysis

Nick's relationship with George is a strong one. Nick worries about being alone after George leaves. This follows Nick's pattern shown throughout the stories to attach strong emotions to his male relationships. In the background, the pregnant waitress and the woman called Helen are both mentioned as symbols of the male-female relationships that both Nick and George are avoiding. Nick wants to keep George to himself, enjoying more male relationship bonding, and resents George's ties to the female, represented by his return to school at home.

"My Old Man"

"My Old Man" Summary

Joey travels around Europe with his father, who is a jockey. His father works very hard to keep in shape, but rarely gets work. He gambles on horse racing a lot. Joey remembers one instance in France when his father has one of his jockey friends throw a race so that he can make money by betting on the underdog. Joey's father tells him about his life during the war and in the U.S. At one point, his father buys a horse, Gilford, to train and race. During a race, Gilford throws his father off and kills him. The other jockeys discuss how bad his father was.

"My Old Man" Analysis

The relationship between Joey and his father is similar to Nick Adams' relationship with his father. Both sons idolize their fathers and learn everything that they know about the world from them. Both sons are raised in a closed environment, where their father has an important position. Neither son has any significant relationship with their mother or any other female, whether as a child or an adult. Joey learns from others how the world really sees his father, which is extremely damaging to his view of the world.



"Big Two-Hearted River"

"Big Two-Hearted River" Summary

Nick walks from the train tracks, carrying a heavy backpack. The area has recently suffered a large fire. He sets up a permanent camp and warms up some canned food. He enjoys his freedom and remembers his friend, Hopkins, who he serves with during the war.

Nick prepares for a day of fishing at his camp. He walks along the river, choosing the best spots to catch trout. He decides he is happy with the trout he has caught and does not venture further downstream. Instead, he lays out his catch on a log to clean them. He goes back to his camp, thinking of the future opportunities to fish in the deeper waters.

"Big Two-Hearted River" Analysis

After returning from the war, Nick seeks escape. He returns to the hunting and fishing lifestyle that he learned as a child. This bond with nature is underscored by his lack of human contact. The one person that he thinks about is a friend from the war who was able to be successful after the war. Much of his trip involves avoiding thinking about anything or anyone. He loses himself in nature and the innocent bond he has with nature.



"The Undefeated"

"The Undefeated" Summary

Manuel Garcia approaches Retana to get a job as a bullfighter. Retana gives him a last-minute substitute position during the night show for a low fee. Manuel is desperate and takes it. He goes to a cafe in search of Zurito, a picador. He wants Zurito to be his picador during the bullfight. Zurito eventually agrees. The two of them enter the ring to perform for a slightly bored audience. Manuel handles the bull well, although the newspaper critic in the audience is unimpressed. During the final stage, Manuel is almost trampled by the bull but manages to escape. He continues fighting the bull, suffering many injuries until he is successful.

"The Undefeated" Analysis

Manuel Garcia's dream of bullfighting is undercut by the reaction of all of those around him. While Retana sees it as a business, the audience and the newspaper critic are generally bored by the sport itself. Manuel goes through the routines and ceremonies of the bullfight as though it were an important thing, although all those around it feel that it is outdated and uninteresting. The irony is that Manuel puts his life on the line for his dreams, while those around him do not feel entertained by his performance. In many ways, bullfighting symbolizes a lost ceremonial magic for society, as the older forms of honor are replaced.

"In Another Country"

"In Another Country" Summary

In Milan, a group of officers undergo long-term physical reconstruction and therapy for their war injuries. After therapy, they go to a favorite cafe, the Cova. The narrator explains that he has only received medals because he is American. One of his friends tries to teach him Italian grammar. This friend, a major, has recently lost his wife to pneumonia. While the group responds to the physical therapy, they are unable to cure their mental and emotional injuries.

"In Another Country" Analysis

The American narrator of this story continues a tradition in Hemingway's work of showing how war heroes and stories are often overrated. His medals are not based on merit and he is quick to point this out. On the other hand, wounded men who have lost many of the important parts of their lives surround him. The irony is that the Italian soldiers have lost wives and have not received medals while the American soldier has received medals and has no permanent injuries. All of this has occurred during a war fought on Italian, not American soil. The humor of the narrator's understanding of spoken Italian contrasted with his confusion over Italian grammar highlights the transition he has made from his previous life in America.

"Hills Like White Elephants"

"Hills Like White Elephants" Summary

A young couple sits in a train station bar waiting for their train. They have traveled a great deal and seem to be bored with the routine. They have an uncomfortable conversation in which they discuss an unnamed activity. The girl says that she wants to do it but the boy is worried that she only wants to do it to please him.

"Hills Like White Elephants" Analysis

As in many Hemingway works, the unspoken topic of conversation between this young couple is an abortion. The white elephant mentioned in the title is a symbol for this abortion. A white elephant is a gift that someone does not want, just as the abortion is a gift between the couple that neither of them wants but which they have decided to accept.

"The Killers"

"The Killers" Summary

Nick is talking to his friend George, who is working at a lunch counter. Two customers, Al and Max, come in. They order lunch before showing their true reason for being at the lunch counter. They take the group hostage in order to kill a man named Anderson, who is a regular customer at the lunch counter. Nick and the cook are tied up in the kitchen while George continues to serve customers. Al and Max wait in the kitchen for Anderson to arrive. After several hours, Al and Max decide to stop waiting for Anderson to arrive. They leave the lunch counter.

Nick wants to warn Anderson that there are two men trying to kill him. George and the cook want to stay out of the situation and worry that Al and Max are dangerous, and are possibly connected to organized crime. Nick goes to see Anderson at his boarding house. Anderson knows that his is going to be killed, but he does not have the energy to run away. Nick returns to the lunch counter and discusses what possible things Anderson could be in trouble for. Nick expresses his anger and disappointment over the situation.

"The Killers" Analysis

The story contrasts with all the stories about war. Here two men are looking to kill someone in a civilian context. Nick is particularly disturbed by the situation. His natural instinct is to warn Anderson, but he realizes that Anderson has accepted his fate and it not interested in trying to escape. Nick is unable to accept this, because he feels that the natural thing to do would be to try to escape and preserve his life.



"Che Ti Dice La Patria?"

"Che Ti Dice La Patria?" Summary

Two friends, Guy and the narrator, are driving through Italy during Mussolini's time in power. On the way to Spezia, they let a fascist ride on the outside of their car. In Spezia, they make the mistake of eating lunch at a brothel. They continue on their trip and are stopped by a fascist official for having a dirty license plate. They have to pay a bribe to continue on their trip.

"Che Ti Dice La Patria?" Analysis

This is one of the few stories in which the political landscape is clearly defined. At every point, the narrator and his friend see symbols that represent Italy under Mussolini. They transport many people in their car, showing how little transportation is available and how poor the people have become. In Spezia, they see the hypocrisy of a brothel posing as a restaurant under the morality laws of Mussolini. Their encounter with the fascist official puts the final touch on their ironic experience. They have to pay a bribe, making their praise of the Mussolini government highly ironic.

"Fifty Grand"

"Fifty Grand" Summary

Jack is an older boxer who has had a successful career. He spends a few weeks on a health farm getting into shape for an important match against Walcott. Jack misses his family and regrets having spent so much time away from them during his career. Jack bets against himself in this match, hoping to make money on a match he is sure he will lose. He rents a hotel room to stay in after the fight because he does not want his family to see how badly he is beaten. He goes against Walcott for more than eleven rounds and gets beaten badly. At the end of the match, he hits Walcott below the belt and loses the match.

"Fifty Grand" Analysis

Unlike many Hemingway characters, Jack is an older man who is past his prime. He is resigned to his failure. Again, however, the focus is on the community of male relationships, between Jack, his trainers, and his fellow boxers. The story is presented as a man-only world in which concerns about family and women are secondary to the bonds between men.



"A Simple Enquiry"

"A Simple Enquiry" Summary

A group of military men are living in a house together. The major calls in the orderly and asks him if he is in love with a girl. The orderly assures him that he is. The major sends him away.

"A Simple Enquiry" Analysis

Another unspoken topic is at the center of this short story. The major is asking if the orderly is homosexual, with the implication that the major is homosexual and looking for a partner among his staff. Homosexuality is never mentioned in the story, but provides the basis for the conversation and the uncomfortable air between the major and his staff.



"Ten Indians"

"Ten Indians" Summary

Nick comes home from a Fourth of July celebration in town. As he rides with his neighbors, the Garners, he sees nine Indian men passed out from drinking too much. The Garners tease Nick about his relationship with an Indian girl named Prudence Mitchell. When he gets home, his father prepares dinner for him and tells him that he saw Prudence out in the woods with another man. Nick goes to bed thinking that his heart is broken but wakes up in the morning feeling much better.

"Ten Indians" Analysis

The relationships that Nick has with Indian girls during his teen years are hinted at in other stories. In all cases, it is implied that the Indian girls are not faithful to Nick or to anyone else. In this story, the reader has both a specific name of an Indian girl, which is not repeated in any other Nick Adams stories although other Indian girlfriends are mentioned. In addition, she is the only one who is actually caught being unfaithful. Nick's relationship with her is quickly forgotten, after one short night of sadness.

"A Canary for One"

"A Canary for One" Summary

A train travels through France on the way to Paris. An older American woman is taking a bird to her daughter in Paris. She discusses her daughter with an American couple who share her compartment. She explains that she believes that American men make the best husbands. She adds that she broke up a relationship between her daughter and a Swiss man. Her daughter has been depressed about the end of the relationship for the last two years and the older woman feels that the bird will help to cheer her up. After the train arrives in Paris, the American couple reveals that they are looking for separate residences.

"A Canary for One" Analysis

The situation between the older American woman and her daughter is sadly humorous. The older woman hopes to substitute a bird for a husband. What is strange is that the older American woman has strong ties to Europe and seems to have lived there for many years. The real irony, however, occurs at the end of the story when the American couple splits up. The American husband, therefore, is not the best partner.



"An Alpine Idyll"

"An Alpine Idyll" Summary

Two young men are skiing when they observe a peasant funeral. Later at the hotel restaurant, they see the peasant and the others from the funeral. They learn the story of the burial. The peasant's wife died the previous winter. The peasant stored her in his woodshed through the winter until the ground thawed enough to bury her. During the winter, every time the peasant went into the woodshed, he hung his lantern on her lip. This repeated action disfigured the face of the corpse.

"An Alpine Idyll" Analysis

The title of this story implies a lighthearted holiday, but the story is quite dark. The contrast between the two men on a ski trip and the hard life of the peasant farmer continues the theme of travelers who do not understand the difficult times of the local poor.



"A Pursuit Race"

"A Pursuit Race" Summary

William Campbell is in a pursuit race with a burlesque show. The burlesque show chases him from Pittsburgh to Kansas City. When the manager of the show, Mr. Turner, catches up with him in a Kansas City hotel, Campbell has already injected drugs. He shows Turner the marks on his arm, choosing to talk to him through the bed sheets. Turner urges him to go to a drug rehabilitation clinic, but Campbell refuses. Turner leaves. When he returns, Campbell is asleep and Turner does not wake him.

"A Pursuit Race" Analysis

While the pursuit race refers to an actual publicity stunt, it also has a second meaning. The drug and alcohol abuse of Campbell represents a second type of race, as Campbell chases the relief that the drugs and alcohol give to him while his friends and fellow workers chase him, trying to save him from his addictions.



"Today is Friday"

"Today is Friday" Summary

Three Roman soldiers are at a Hebrew wine seller discussing the crucifixion of a man. They complain about the bureaucratic nature of their job as well the minor irritations that they experience doing it.

"Today is Friday" Analysis

Written as a short play, the Romans and the wine seller interact and discuss the crucifixion of Christ as though it were an everyday event. The title implies that the story takes place on Good Friday, the day that Christ was crucified. The story is written in the style of ordinary people and does not specifically name Christ as the victim of the crucifixion.

"Banal Story"

"Banal Story" Summary

A writer reviews the advertising press of the Forum literary magazine. These thoughts mix with seemingly random moments occurring simultaneously around the world. It ends with the state funeral of Manuel Garcia Maera, a famous bullfighter. The official photographs of this man take precedence over the real man.

"Banal Story" Analysis

While the people of Spain grieve for their hero, Manuel Garcia Maera, the newspaper staff treat it as another banal story, as the title of the story implies. The name of the famous bullfighter is very similar to the names of bullfighters used in other stories, although those bullfighters were young failures. The story is a possible continuation to those stories of youthful struggle in the world of bullfighting.



"Now I Lay Me"

"Now I Lay Me" Summary

A young American soldier in Italy lies in the hospital after surviving a nighttime bombing. He is afraid to sleep in the dark and devises different fantasy games to stay awake. He remembers all the streams where he enjoyed fishing as a boy. He remembers all the events of his life in order. During the night, he has a conversation with his Italian commander, who urges him to marry and settle down. That officer returns to visit him in the hospital many times.

"Now I Lay Me" Analysis

The title plays on the popular children's prayer, "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep." The soldier does his own version of praying in order to get through the night. While it is not stated in the story, the implication exists that the soldier's injury is too serious for him to leave the hospital for a long time. This makes the commander's orders seem rather ironic, as the soldier is unlikely to be able to act on them.

"After the Storm"

"After the Storm" Summary

The narrator gets into a fight in a bar in a beach community near Key West. He leaves the bar and goes out of his boat, which is caught in a bad storm. The next morning he discovers a wrecked luxury yacht. He tries to salvage the riches within the yacht, but has to leave it when another storm begins. When he gets back to land he is taken to prison because of the bar fight. By the time he gets out on bail and can return to the yacht, he discovers that someone else has already stripped it. He regrets that he was not able to take the wealth out of the yacht.

"After the Storm" Analysis

The style of the stories written about Key West and Cuba are quite different from the other stories in regard to their indifference to violence. This story, in which the narrator is not named, follows this style in the narrator's indifference to the bodies of the dead inside the luxury yacht. Instead, he is only interested in the monetary gain for himself. This marks a transition from the Nick Adams stories in which the narrator is disgusted by the violence of war.



"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"

"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" Summary

Two waiters wait for an old deaf man to finish his drink so they can go home. When he finishes, they close up the cafe. The waiter contemplates the psychological significance of the cafe in the otherwise empty lives of the people.

"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" Analysis

The waiters and the old man all represent the emptiness of many people in the modern world who choose to spend their evenings in public spaces rather than return to their empty personal lives.

"The Light of the World"

"The Light of the World" Summary

The narrator and his friend, Tom, order cheap drinks at a bar before they are thrown out by the owner. They go to the train station where a large group of people is waiting for a train. Two prostitutes, one of whom is extremely overweight, get into an argument about a boxer named Steve Ketchel. Both women claim to have had a relationship with Steve Ketchel. They call each other liars. They continue this argument very angrily. The two young men choose to go in the opposite direction from wherever the two prostitutes are going.

"The Light of the World" Analysis

This story is built on lies. The boxer who the prostitutes refer to as Steve Ketchel is actually named Stanley Ketchel. The two women outdo themselves in lying about their relationship with this man, who they clearly do not really know. The irony of the story is in the title, which can be both a Biblical reference to Jesus or to the concept of truth in general.



"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Summary

Horace returns to the clinic of Dr. Wilcox and Dr. Fischer. Dr. Wilcox is not a very good doctor and carries around a medical guide to help him treat patients. The two doctors explain to Horace that they recently had a patient come in to the clinic asking to be castrated. This patient feels guilty about his sexual thoughts and feelings. The doctors assure him that his is perfectly normal, but the patient is not convinced. The next day, which also happens to be Christmas, the patient tries to castrate himself at home. He bleeds to death because Dr. Wilcox is unable to find the proper treatment in his medical guide.

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Analysis

The patient seeking to be castrated is a symbol of the oppression of Christian teachings about sexuality. The patient's attitudes toward his own emerging sexuality are very similar to that which is presented to Nick Adams by his own father. The doctors, however, do not understand the severity of the boy's problems. His tragic death is made ironic by the attitude of the doctors, who continue with their lighthearted banter as they tell the story of a patient's death.



"The Sea Change"

"The Sea Change" Summary

A young couple sits in an almost empty bar. The young woman is explaining to the young man that she is leaving him, although she is not clear why she has chosen to do this. The man accepts this, hoping that she will come back to him later. Both the young man and the young woman have dark tans. The bartender comments on how tan and healthy the young man has become over the summer.

"The Sea Change" Analysis

As many young couples in the short stories of Hemingway, this young couple is about to break up. Like most young couples, their conversation is presented out of context in a public place. The style allows the reader to feel like an eavesdropper on such a conversation, in which the reader can fill in many of the blanks that are left out of the conversation. The health and vigor of the young couple also parallel other young couples in Hemingway's short stories. They are young, healthy, and unable to connect emotionally to each other. Their partnerships seem to begin and end for no real reason.



"A Way You'll Never Be"

"A Way You'll Never Be" Summary

Nick arrives on the scene of a recent battle. He sifts through the dead bodies on his way to meet up with Italian troops. The commander is an old friend, Paravicini. Nick has recently been discharged from the army for mental stability problems. He enters the battlefield wearing an American uniform as a morale builder for the Italian soldiers. This is intended to reassure them that American troops are coming to reinforce them. Nick talks to some soldiers about grasshoppers and the difference between the Italian and American varieties. He realizes that he is on the verge of another mental breakdown and leaves quickly.

"A Way You'll Never Be" Analysis

Nick returns to the scene of his injury and has a difficult time feeling comfortable in the battlefield environment. The images of death and injury around him remind him of his recent injury. He is unable to keep himself in control during his short reunion with the battlefield. The grasshoppers become a symbol for his instability as he looks for something safe to cling to during this difficult time.



"The Mother of a Queen"

"The Mother of a Queen" Summary

A matador's mother has been buried for five years in Mexico. When the matador returns from Spain, he joins his friend, the narrator. The narrator has paid the matador's bills during his time outside the country. A notice for the bill on the matador's mother's grave arrives. It threatens to turn his mother's body out of the grave if the fees are not paid. The fees are very low. The matador claims that he will pay for it, but he never does. After several notices, the graveyard informs the matador that his mother has been taken out of her grave and put in a common burial pit.

The narrator tries to get the matador to pay back all the money that the narrator has spent paying his bills while the matador was away. The matador refuses to pay but spends a lot of money on random personal items, mostly for selfish vanity. The narrator grows angry about not being paid. He leaves the matador. A year later, the narrator sees the matador again, and the matador acts as though they are great friends.

"The Mother of a Queen" Analysis

Like many Hemingway stories, the unspoken subtext of this story is homosexuality. The negative portrayal of homosexual characters continues in this story. While in other stories, the bullfighter represents traditional masculinity; here that image is perverted by the behavior of the homosexual bullfighter. Hemingway makes interesting comments on how the homosexual bullfighter uses images such as fancy bullfighting costumes to present himself as something that he is not. At the same time, the bullfighter tarnishes these images by not taking proper care of his bullfighting equipment, seeing it as just another false image that he can pretend to be.



"One Reader Writes"

"One Reader Writes" Summary

A young wife writes a letter to a medical column in a newspaper. Her husband recently served in Shanghai for three years. When he comes home, he tells his wife that he has syphilis. He wants her to live with him, but she wonders if it is safe to live with him again. She writes that he is getting treatment for the disease, but that she does not really know anything about the disease.

"One Reader Writes" Analysis

In one of Hemingway's many commentaries on sexual repression in America, he shows the ignorance of the young wife. She cannot spell syphilis correctly and does not know what it is. It can be assumed that, because her husband tells her the name of his disease, he also believes that she does not know what it is.

"Homage to Switzerland"

"Homage to Switzerland" Summary

Mr. Wheeler sits in a restaurant at a train station. He teases the waitress to have sex with him, offering increasing sums of money. He knows that there is no place in the train station for them to have sex and angers the waitress as a joke.

Mr. Johnson sits in a restaurant at a train station. He asks the waitress to run away with him on the next train, but she refuses. He buys expensive champagne and drinks it with the porters. He tells them that his wife is divorcing him. He tries to joke about the situation, but cannot pull it off. He goes for a walk because he feels bad about the divorce.

Mr. Harris sits in a restaurant at a train station. An older man approaches him. The man believes that Harris is a member of the National Geographic Society. Harris's father was a member. The two men discuss the magazine. Harris reveals that his father committed suicide the previous year. The two men exchange business cards.

"Homage to Switzerland" Analysis

Offering three slices of life, Hemingway continues his pattern of recording seemingly random conversations in train stations. The first two conversations, with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Johnson, the relationships between the customers and the staff of the restaurant are shown to be empty and lacking in real connection. The final conversation, in which Mr. Harris and the older man find a source of connection through the National Geographic Society, the ordinary subject matter of the magazine overshadows the real emotional event of the death of Mr. Harris's father.



"A Day's Wait"

"A Day's Wait" Summary

A little boy who lives with the narrator comes down with a fever. He says the boy's temperature is 102 degrees. The narrator tries to take care of the boy, but the boy is very depressed and scared. The boy confesses that he knows he will die because 44 degrees is fatal. The narrator explains the difference between Fahrenheit and Celsius temperature scales.

"A Day's Wait" Analysis

The father and son do not understand each other. The father knows that the boy will be ok, but he does not communicate this to his son. Where the father sees a passing illness, the boy thinks he is facing death. The temperature symbolizes the secret knowledge of the father than he does not think to teach to his son. The son only learns this secret knowledge through trial and error, while, in his mind, risking his life.

"A Natural History of the Dead"

"A Natural History of the Dead" Summary

The narrator seeks to provide a scientific study of death during a war in the same style that landscapers and zoologists write in. He describes the appearance of dead animals, dead soldiers, dead women, and exploding human bodies. One battle he records is the Austrian offensive in June of 1918. The narrator describes death as inhuman and lacking in dignity. He compares his personal experience with the more poetic descriptions of death written in books and philosophy. He records a conversation between a doctor and a soldier over the wounded. The soldier tells the doctor that he is cruel for not ending the suffering of a wounded man. The doctor is offended and attacks the soldier by blinking him with iodine.

"A Natural History of the Dead" Analysis

Hemingway uses his personal experience during World War I to offer his perspective on death. Hemingway fights against literary conventions of noble death and instead presents the picture of death as painful and meaningless. His perspective earns him the respect of the so-called "Lost Generation," or the generation of men who fought in World War I and became disillusioned with war and the meaning of life.



"Wine of Wyoming"

"Wine of Wyoming" Summary

The narrator and his friends are on a trip through Wyoming. They spend some time with a French couple, the Fontans, who own a restaurant and make their own alcohol. It is Prohibition, and the alcohol is illegal. The couple speaks in a combination of English and French. They are very proud of their homemade wine and beer. The narrator and his friends leave for a few days to hunt prairie dogs. When they return, they decide that they need to move on from Wyoming. The Fontans want to have a going away party for them, but the men are too tired to attend. The next day, they visit the Fontans to say goodbye. Mr. Fontan wants to give them some wine to take with them, but the house where he makes his illegal wine is locked up and he cannot get in. The Fontans are disappointed and the men go away, feeling sorry for the couple.

"Wine of Wyoming" Analysis

Although this story takes place in America, it follows the same pattern many Hemingway stories have in dealing with young travelers. The young travelers do not understand the real motivations and feelings of those that they stay with during their journey. Like the many young people that Hemingway describes traveling through Europe, this group of travelers is looking only for immediate enjoyment and recreation and does not recognize the struggles of the local people trying to make a living.



"The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio"

"The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio" Summary

A Mexican gambler, Cayetano, and his Russian friend are shot over a gambling debt. The Russian's wound is less and he is soon released. Cayetano is interviewed by the police but refuses to tell who shot him. Mr. Frazer, another patient at the hospital, translates for him and develops a friendship. The nurse, a nun, Sister Cecilia, gives Frazer updates about Cayetano's slow recovery. Frazer spends most of his free time listening to the radio broadcasts from faraway cities.

When Cayetano begins to recover, the police send over some Mexicans to visit him. These Mexicans happen to include the men who shot Cayetano. The group has a party that Frazer listens to from his room. He thinks about what one of the Mexican visitors said about religion being the opium of the people. He meditates about the chances of human happiness in any organized form.

"The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio" Analysis

Everyone in the story is looking for something to ease their pain and to give meaning to their life. Mr. Frazer takes comfort in his radio. Sister Cecelia uses prayer. The Mexican visitors use music to make themselves happy. All of these forms of comfort are equal, regardless of the Mexican visitor's Communist principle that religion is the opium of the people. Instead, all people seek some sort of opium, or comfort for dealing with their daily lives.



"Fathers and Sons"

"Fathers and Sons" Summary

Nick Adams drives through the countryside with his young son. He remembers his own father, who taught him how to hunt. He also remembers that awkwardness with which his father taught him about sex. Hunting and sex are combined in his memories of his youth spent hunting with his friend Billy and having sex with Billy's sister, Trudy. He remembers his father as a strong hunter and alludes to some disappointing memories that he does not clarify. His young son asks Nick why they have not visited his grandfather's grave. The son explains that Nick should be buried somewhere where he can visit him because it is very important for a son to visit the grave of his father.

"Fathers and Sons" Analysis

Nick's problematic relationship with his own father transfers to his own relationship with his son. While Nick admires his father's skill in hunting, and other traditionally manly skills, he realizes that his father had many problems dealing with sexuality. These sexual issues have carried over in Nick's adult life. There is no wife or mother traveling with Nick and his son. The two males are alone together, much as Nick describes his own youth with his father. Nick's son feels that the traditional honor paid to one's father is an important element of the father-son relationship. This is ironic given that Nick has been removed from his father for many years and has not visited his grave.



"One Trip Across"

"One Trip Across" Summary

Harry owns a boat in Cuba. He takes rich men out on deep sea fishing trips. His crew consists of Eddie, an alcoholic. One morning, three men who want him to take them to the U.S. on his boat approach Harry. Harry refuses. The three men are killed in a street shoot-out shortly thereafter.

Harry has been working with Mr. Johnson for three weeks. On the last day, Mr. Johnson loses some very expensive fishing equipment through his own laziness and stupidity. Mr. Johnson promises to pay for the fishing equipment as well as his outstanding bill. Harry waits all day for Mr. Johnson to bring the money. Eventually, he learns that Mr. Johnson has left the island secretly without paying his bills.

Because he lost so much money on Mr. Johnson, he has to take a risky deal. He agrees to help Mr. Sing take twelve Chinese illegals to the U.S.. When he sets out to pick up the illegals, he discovers that Eddie has stowed away on his boat. At first, Harry thinks that he will have to kill Eddie to keep his plans secret. When Harry meets Mr. Sing for the pickup, he takes the twelve Chinese illegals onboard and receives his payment. He kills Mr. Sing and drops his body into the sea. He takes the twelve Chinese illegals to another part of Cuba and puts them off the boat. Harry thinks about whether he needs to kill Eddie to keep the whole series of events a secret. Because Eddie's name was accidentally put on the crew list, Harry thinks it will be too dangerous to kill Eddie. They arrive in Key West and Harry returns to his family.

"One Trip Across" Analysis

Harry the deep-sea fisherman is a strong contrast to the usual Hemingway hero. While Nick Adams and Edwin Henry are observers, Harry is a participant, often in activities that are violent and motivated primarily by money. The idealism of the earlier characters disappears in Harry, who definitely believes that the ends justify the means.

One of the interesting points that defines Harry is something that is only hinted about in other Hemingway stories. Harry's blatant and constant racist descriptions show one of the weaknesses of his character. While the rich white man, Mr. Johnson, is trusted and given the opportunity to leave without paying, the black and Asian characters described in the narrative are distrusted and taken advantage of. Harry has no regrets about taking the life of Mr. Sing, or defrauding the Chinese illegals of their money, although he felt awkward about demanding fair payment from Mr. Johnson.



"The Tradesman's Return"

"The Tradesman's Return" Summary

Harry and Wesley run illegal liquor from Cuba. The Coast Guard catches them and shoots at their boat. Both are wounded, but Harry insists that they can make it to Key West. They drift at sea for a while until another boat, piloted by Captain Willie, catches up to them. Captain Willie is running a deep-sea fishing trip for two rich men connected to the American government. These passengers want to speak to Harry, but Willie steers them away. Harry decides to dump the illegal alcohol overboard in order that he and Wesley can get to Key West faster to seek medical help.

"The Tradesman's Return" Analysis

All of the stories about Harry involve some illegal activity. In this case, he and his friend are running alcohol from Cuba to America. At one point, Wesley asks why they are doing such a dangerous thing, because Prohibition has long been over in America and alcohol can be imported legally. This adds a greater sense of irony to the traditional Hemingway idea of masculinity. While other characters such as Nick Adams and Edwin Henry react to situations around them, many of which require illegal activity to survive, Harry seems to seek out illegal activity for its own sake, in order to prove his masculinity. Harry looks down on Wesley for complaining about his injury, although it is clear that Wesley might die from it. He wants the ideal masculinity that feels no pain, or at least never shows it. This also must be abandoned when Harry realizes that neither will survive the trip unless they get medical help soon.



"The Denunciation"

"The Denunciation" Summary

Edwin Henry, called Enrique in Spanish, goes to his favorite restaurant, Chicote's. At the restaurant, Edwin meets John, an old friend from Greece who has recently been wounded in an air attack. Also at the restaurant is Luis Delgado. Edwin, who is a loyalist, met Luis many years ago and knows that he is a fascist. Luis is wearing a loyalist uniform, and Edwin believes that he is a fascist spy trying to infiltrate a loyalist stronghold. Edwin tells the waiter that Luis is a fascist. He also gives the waiter the telephone number of the government security office. The waiter calls the number to denounce Luis Delgado. The security forces arrive and arrest Luis. Edwin calls his friend, Pepe, in the government security office, and asks him to tell Luis that he, Edwin, denounced him instead of the waiter. Edwin is worried about the reputation of the restaurant.

"The Denunciation" Analysis

The secret maneuverings between the loyalists and the fascists in Spain make everyone suspicious of each other. The meeting place, Chicote's, is described as a paradise of masculinity, including good food and alcohol, as well as an atmosphere of stability. Chicote's takes on a character of its own, as though it were a person, not a place. This is definitely shown at the end, when Edwin takes the blame for the denunciation on himself rather than let Luis feel that the restaurant could have betrayed him.



"The Butterfly and the Tank"

"The Butterfly and the Tank" Summary

Edwin Henry walks into Chicote's on a crowded rainy afternoon. He sits with some people that he does not really know, including a girl. There is a man with a flit gun, who keeps spraying the waiters with cologne. Some people are offended by this and take the man outside and beat him. The man comes back in and sprays the whole crowd. A man shoots him. The narrator and the girl run and hide in the kitchen. The six men who had beaten the man up and then shot at him leave but the others in the restaurant have to stay until the police arrive to investigate the shooting. Edwin asks the girl if he should write about the incident and she says that it would damage the Spanish republic. The next morning, Edwin goes into Chicote's before lunch and asks what happened. The waiter tells him that the body was picked up earlier that morning and that the dead man, named Pedro, was only joking. The waiter insists that Edwin write about the incident and call it The Butterfly and the Tank.

"The Butterfly and the Tank" Analysis

The loyalist and fascist struggle in Spain has made everyone paranoid and on edge. Pedro wants to bring lightness and happiness to his life. His joke with the flit gun is not meant to hurt anyone, but instead to remind them of how much fun life can be. Of course, those at Chicote's are so tense because of the war that they interpret anything out of the ordinary to be dangerous. The men who beat up Pedro and then shoot him are quickly reacting to a perceived threat. The girl insists that no one should write about this incident because it makes the loyalists seem unfair and paranoid. However, the waiter feels that the whole incident has been extremely ironic, and that it should be written about as a commentary on the way that happiness and innocence is destroyed and misunderstood by war and violence.



"Night Before Battle"

"Night Before Battle" Summary

Edwin works with a film crew to record battles during the Spanish Civil War. He goes to Chicote's to meet his friend, Al, who commands a tank division. Al complains about how badly his group is prepared to fight the next day. Edwin takes Al back to his hotel room to take a bath. Edwin's hotel room is crowded with people who are using it to have a party and to get cleaned up. Al takes a bath and stays to gamble. Edwin and his other friends go out to dinner at a very bad restaurant called Gran Via. Al arrives later. The restaurant serves wine from the royal palace. When the group returns to the hotel, they meet Baldy Johnson, a fighter pilot, who describes his latest daring escape. The party winds down and Al and Edwin go to sleep. Al asks Edwin to meet for dinner the next day, although Al knows he will probably die before then.

"Night Before Battle" Analysis

The irony of the preparations for battle is that they completely disregard the upcoming battle and instead concentrate on fleeting enjoyment, mostly based on games, food, and alcohol. The soldiers seem to ignore the upcoming danger, as it seems to be out of their control. Al, in particular, seems to understand that he is unlikely to return from battle alive. His invitation to meet for dinner the next day shows his only way of defending himself against that fate.

"Under the Ridge"

"Under the Ridge" Summary

Edwin films the battles of the Spanish Civil War. He rests with some soldiers hiding in the caves. One of these soldiers, called "The Extremaduran," describes his dislike of all foreigners. He dislikes Russians, specifically, because of an incident involving one of his soldiers. Paco, a young frightened soldier, shoots his own hand to avoid going to battle. His hand has to be amputated. His Russian superiors shoot him as an example for all the other men who might think of injuring themselves to get out of battle. The narrator heads back to Madrid, hoping to write about the incidents after the war is over.

"Under the Ridge" Analysis

While the fascist's side is united, the loyalist side is made up of a number of groups, including the Spanish royal family, the communists, and more. This makes many of the loyalists groups very conflicted, because of their different backgrounds. In this story, the Spanish soldier describes the discipline methods of a Russian officer on another Spanish soldier. Here, the irony is that the Spanish soldier, fighting for his own country, is subordinate to and killed by one of the foreign officers sent to liberate Spain. The "Extremaduran," nicknamed for the variety of the Spanish language that he speaks, is disturbed that his countrymen are being killed by foreigners, even as they seek to kill each other.



"Nobody Ever Dies"

"Nobody Ever Dies" Summary

Enrique hides out at a safe house in Cuba. He waits all day for Maria to bring him food. Enrique and Maria discuss the others that have been killed in the ongoing communist war. As they are talking, the sound of police sirens makes them flee the house. They go separate ways. When the police corners Enrique, they shoot him. When they catch Maria, she takes on a saint-like confidence, in the style of Joan of Arc. The man who tipped off the police about Maria and Enrique is scared by her calm confidence.

"Nobody Ever Dies" Analysis

The title suggests that those who stand up for a cause do not die. Instead, they become martyrs. Maria, who was just a normal girl until the police confront her, is compared to Joan of Arc, the French saint who stood up against the invasion by the English. Maria, like Joan, is willing to die to promote the cause she believes in, although in Maria's case, this cause is communism, not French Catholicism. The religious symbolism is carried further in comparing the man's voodoo beads to the religious martyrdom of Joan of Arc/Maria.

"The Good Lion"

"The Good Lion" Summary

While all the lions eat people, one lion is different. He only eats pasta and he has wings. When the other lions threaten to kill him for his strange habits, he flies away and returns to his home in Venice. In Venice, he finds that his habits have been changed because of his travels to Africa.

"The Good Lion" Analysis

One of the few children's stories that Hemingway wrote, this story compares the real lions of Africa with the many statues and images of lions in Venice.



"The Faithful Bull"

"The Faithful Bull" Summary

One bull loves to fight. He fights with all the other bulls until his master puts him out to breed. The bull falls in love with one of the cows and will not mate with any others. The owner sends him to be killed in the bullring. After he is killed, the matador comments on the rewards of faithfulness.

"The Faithful Bull" Analysis

Although this is supposed to be a children's story, the message at the end of the story seems more appropriate for adults. Even in the animal world, the problems of male-female relationships are given as the reason why the male half of the relationship fails. The argument remains that faithfulness, at least on the part of the male, is against nature. The males who practice it are punished.



"Get a Seeing-Eyed Dog"

"Get a Seeing-Eyed Dog" Summary

A couple is in a house together, remembering their happy times and adventures. The man continually tells the woman that she should leave him, at least temporarily. It is revealed that he has recently been blinded and wants her to leave so she does not have to take care of him.

"Get a Seeing-Eyed Dog" Analysis

As another symbol of thwarted masculinity, the male character of this story is no longer able to care for himself. Although his wife is happy to assist him, he wants her to leave him because it embarrasses him to be taken care of in this way.



"A Man of the World"

"A Man of the World" Summary

Blindy is a blind man that wanders among the local bars playing slot machines. He smells very bad and has a difficult time finding someone to give him a ride between bars. His favorite bar is the Pilot, where he gets along well with the bartender. The bartender explains how Blindy became blind. During a fight, his eyes were gouged out and then bitten off by his opponent, Willis Sawyer. Blindy, who refuses to be called by his previous nickname, Blacky, is content with his life and pities Willis Sawyer for not being as fun as he is.

"A Man of the World" Analysis

Blindy, the traveling homeless man spends his life observing people, much as a writer does. Blindy's hard life makes him a positive symbol of masculinity for Hemingway. His lack of concern for his physical problems, as well as his lack of interest in money or other pursuits, puts him above the average man. In fact, Blindy insists that he is better than the man who is healthy and rich, such as Willis Sawyer, because he has enjoyed his life more.

"Summer People"

"Summer People" Summary

Nick spends time with his friends at the seaside. His friend, Odgar, is in love with Kate, but does not know how to approach her. Nick, on the other hand, knows how to develop a physical relationship. The group goes swimming. On returning home, Kate and Nick meet secretly in the woods to have sex. Nick returns to the cottage alone, praying that he will become a good writer.

"Summer People" Analysis

Nick Adams takes on Hemingway's male ideal. He is able to have sex with his friend Kate, despite his knowledge of Kate's relationship with his friend, Odgar. In this sexual encounter, Nick is shown as a domineering male who takes his sexual pleasure where he finds it and does not care about any of the consequences.



"The Last Good Country"

"The Last Good Country" Summary

Nick is in trouble. Among other things, he shot a protected deer. The son of the local police officer, Evans, saw the shooting so Nick must leave in order to avoid being sent to reform school. When the police show up at his house, his younger sister, Littleless, comes to warn him. She helps him sneak food from the house and they plan to run away together. The police stay at his house, but fall asleep drunk, giving Nick the chance he needs to escape. They police do not have any real leads so they interview Nick's family and the other townspeople, but these people all protect Nick.

Nick and Littleless travel far into the forest to avoid anyone who might be tracking them. Nick and Littleless set up camp and spend most of the time talking. Littleless tells Nick stories she invents about their future. Nick worries that Evans might be following them. If he was alone, he might try to kill Evans, but with his sister there, he will not.

"The Last Good Country" Analysis

This story was left unfinished by Hemingway. It shows the only relationship that Nick can develop with a woman is the one he develops with his little sister. Unlike Nick's issues dealing with women his own age, or women that he is sexually linked to, Nick is able to feel strong emotions about his sister and express his love for her. This pattern continues in many other stories, in which the main character develops relationships with women who are much younger than he is. In this story, however, Nick is not disillusioned about his female partner, and instead seeks to protect her and restrain his own impulses.



"An African Story"

"An African Story" Summary

David and his dog Kibo find a bull elephant with large tusks. David tells his father. His father and a guide, Juma, track the elephant to take the tusks. David accompanies them and becomes very weak throughout the trip. David regrets telling his father and leading him to the death of the elephant. Juma explains that he wounded the elephant once in the past and killed the elephant's companion. They reach the skeleton of that dead elephant and realize that the living elephant must have traveled to visit the site of his companion's death. Juma shoots the elephant, which attacks and wounds him. David and his father approach the dying elephant and David watches its eyes as it dies. They take the tusks and return to the village. David has learned a new lesson on trust and loneliness.

"An African Story" Analysis

The story presents an interesting twist to two of Hemingway's standard plotlines. On the one hand, there is the plot line of father and son who do not understand each other. On the other hand, there is the plot line of hunting and killing an animal. In this story, however, the young son does not enjoy the hunting experience with his father and instead identifies with the elephant. David feels that he has betrayed the elephant in telling his father where to go to kill it. The elephant takes on human qualities, including friendship and loyalty, while David's father becomes increasingly inhuman, looking for the prize of the tusks and not caring about anything else. This story stands apart in the negative portrayal of hunting, particularly the idea of hunting as a male bonding ritual, among Hemingway's many stories that glorify hunting, especially the big game of Africa.



"The Train Trip"

"The Train Trip" Summary

Jimmy and his father leave their summer cabin to take a train to Canada. When they get on the train, they see two prisoners. Each prisoner is handcuffed to a guard. The guards explain that the two prisoners are wanted for murder. During a lunch stop, Jimmy's father sees one of the prisoners steal a knife and put it in his pocket. Back on the train, this prisoner has to go to the bathroom. When the prisoner and his guard go to the bathroom, the prisoner stabs the guard. Jimmy sees this and notifies the other guard. The other guard runs to investigate. The guard in the bathroom has been stabbed but he survives. The prisoner escapes out of the bathroom window. After the incident is over, Jimmy's father refers to his own life when he first encountered large amounts of blood.

"The Train Trip" Analysis

The father-son element of this story combines with another Hemingway theme, that of travelers on a train observing the people around them. Jimmy and his father live alone together in a cabin, without any mother or other female presence. On their train trip together, they rarely speak to each other, except in observing their fellow passengers, the prisoners. Jimmy's father seems very interested in educating his son, although his education is based primarily in understanding how smart his father is.

Jimmy's father has a definite idea of masculinity that he wants to present to his son. When he sees the prisoner take the knife, he does not inform the guards, which would seem the sensible thing to do. Instead, he tells Jimmy about it and then encourages Jimmy to witness the prisoner stab the guard. At the end of the story, the father acts as though this has been a male bonding experience. The message, then, is that male bonding is based on violence and blood.



"The Porter"

"The Porter" Summary

Continuing on their train trip, Jimmy's father stays up late drinking. Jimmy wakes up early and strikes up a conversation with the porter, who is black. The two go to the dining car to get something to eat. During their breakfast, the porter shows Jimmy a trick he can do with a razor as a lesson about the life of a black man. Jimmy wants to spend more time with him but the porter has to go back to his work routine on the train. Jimmy looks out the window, watching the landscape go by.

"The Porter" Analysis

This story is one of the few positive portrayals of a non-white character. While black people, among other racial groups, are routinely criticized and made into either villains or idiots, the black porter on the train makes a very clear statement about his position in the world, and shows that this position is unfair. At the same time, Jimmy's father is shown to be a male ideal, in that he can drink a lot of alcohol without being affected.



"Black Ass at the Cross Roads"

"Black Ass at the Cross Roads" Summary

During World War II, the narrator and his friends guard a crossroads where German troops pass into France. They kill the Germans and rob them of their money and valuables. They accidentally kill some Frenchmen. They kill many Germans on bicycles. At the end of the day, they clean the blood off their clothes and share both the spoils of war and the regrets about their activity.

"Black Ass at the Cross Roads" Analysis

The violence of World War II is presented in this story, yet with a strange twist. The narrator and his friends are not soldiers, but they are fighting for the French side. However, at this point in the war, France is controlled by Germany. The narrator and his friends have set up a crossroads on the French-German border to assault German soldiers crossing into France. The German soldiers do not seem to see this border as violent or guarded, and others arrive on bicycles. The narrator and his friends are conflicted. On the one hand, they are doing something for the French resistance movement, but on the other, they are personally profiting from the deaths of others.



"Landscape with Figures"

"Landscape with Figures" Summary

Edwin Henry and his film crew are living in a bombed out house. Two others live there: an American female journalist and a British Authority. One afternoon the British man sits out on the balcony despite everyone's warnings. This causes an attack on the house and everyone flees. Edwin and the woman discuss the attack, which is the first that the woman has witnessed. After the attack, everyone resumes his or her social activities in order to bond together.

"Landscape with Figures" Analysis

Edwin's experiences filming the Spanish Civil War continue. Here, the danger is not the enemy army, but his own neighbor, the British Authority, who does not understand how to fight a guerrilla war. The British Authority's arrogance is a symbol for the attitude of the British toward the Spanish Civil War, in which they gave at least some support to the Fascist side that Ernest Hemingway fought against.

Edwin takes on a strange role as a protector and comforter to the young American journalist. Unlike his usual portrayals of women, this woman is innocent and understanding. There is no mention of her sexual character, which is usually important in defining the other women that Hemingway characters confront, especially in wartime. Edwin protects her from the more violent faces of war, and acts toward her as an older brother, perhaps paralleling the Nick Adams stories of an older brother shielding his younger sister from the violence of the world.



"I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something"

"I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something" Summary

Stevie brings his father a short story that he wrote that has won a prize. The father, Mr. Wheeler, is very proud and wants to help develop his son's writing talent. He suggests various activities that they could do together. The son refuses and wants to work on his own. The other skill that they both share is shooting. The boy is a very good shot for someone his age. Years later, the father finds the prize-winning short story in a library book and realizes that his son has copied it. It goes along with the rest of the son's life and his father is disappointed.

"I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something" Analysis

Another father-son relationship goes badly in this story. Here the narration is from the point of view of the father, rather than of the son. The father does not understand what is wrong with his son, although there is foreshadowing of the mental illness that is recorded in the next story, "Great News from the Mainland."

"Great News from the Mainland"

"Great News from the Mainland" Summary

Mr. Wheeler receives a report on his son's progress at a mental institution. His son, Stevie, is undergoing electric shock therapy among other treatments. Mr. Wheeler sits at his home in Cuba. He speaks briefly to his son on the telephone. His son and his son's doctor both feel that Stevie is making good progress in his treatment and is beginning to return to reality.

"Great News from the Mainland" Analysis

The father-son relationship between Mr. Wheeler and his son, Stevie, develops further in this story. Mr. Wheeler sits at home alone, listening to medical reports about his son. The father and son are divided, both geographically and mentally. The story confronts the father's inability to either understand what has happened to his son, or to recognize his son in a way that is not physical or in line with Mr. Wheeler's expectations for him.



"The Strange Country"

"The Strange Country" Summary

Robert and Helena are traveling across the country from Miami to California. They are using fake last names as they travel. Robert is much older than Helena and calls her daughter. They stay in Miami only as long as it takes to buy a car and receive a wire transfer of money. They start their trip. As they drive, Robert remembers the many trips he has taken before with his previous wives and with his children. At the first stop, they rent a cabin where they consummate their relationship for the first time.

While there, Robert reads newspaper reports about the beginnings of war in Spain. He feels that he should go to Spain and help in the war effort, but he wants to take a break and stay with Helena. Throughout the trip, he looks for more information on the Spanish war and worries that he is making the wrong choice to stay with Helena. When they reach New Orleans, they go to drink absinthe. Under the influence of the absinthe, Helena tells Robert about her fantasies about him. This makes Robert feel their connection is broken. He tells her the story of his first major shock as a writer, when all his papers were stolen in Paris. She wants to continue talking but they both know that the relationship has turned sour.

"The Strange Country" Analysis

The relationship between Robert and Helena develops along the same lines as other Hemingway male-female relationships, with a clear paternal or brotherly attitude on the part of the man. Robert is significantly older than Helena and enjoys playing the father figure to her. Their shared use of the word "daughter" to refer to their relationship makes this clear. Robert continues the relationship as a kind of escape from the real concerns of his life, such as the ongoing war in Spain.

The comments that disturb Robert are most similar to the stories that Nick Adams' younger sister, Littless, told him in "The Last Good Country." The similarities between the fantasies of a younger sister and those of a younger lover, Helena, are both striking and ironic, considering Robert's sexual relationship with Helena. In order to distance himself from Helena, he reevaluates their relationship, putting her in the position of a wife instead of a child by telling her the story of his first wife's accident with his writing. The story that Robert tells symbolizes the pain that accompanies a man putting all of his future into the hands of a woman. This story helps to push him away from Helena and define her as a woman instead of as a child.



Characters

Nick Adams

Nick Adams is in "Indian Camp," "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," "The End of Something," "The Three-Day Blow," "The Battler," "A Very Short Story," "Cross-Country Snow," "Big Hearted River," "The Killers," "Ten Indians," "A Way You'll Never Be," "Fathers and Sons," "Summer People," and "The Last Good Country."

Nicks Adams grows up in the countryside of Michigan and Wyoming. His father is a doctor and teaches him how to hunt and fish, while giving him many negative ideas about sexuality. Nick grows up with many friends from the local Indian tribe, including Billy. Nick's first love is Marjorie, but his friends convince him to break up with her. Nick has sexual relationships with many Indian girls, including Prudence and Trudy. As a young man, he flees from the police with his little sister, Littless.

Nick goes to Italy to serve in the Italian military. He experiences many of the horrors of war, including a serious injury that puts him in the hospital. After the war, Nick goes on a skiing trip through Europe, and then goes on many independent fishing trips in Wyoming and Michigan. Nick is widely considered to be an autobiographical character based on Hemingway's childhood and the emotional issues surrounding his service in Italy.

Harry

Harry is in "After the Storm," "One Trip Across," and "The Tradesman's Return."

Harry has a fishing boat and splits his time between his family home in Key West and his business location in Cuba. Harry engages in many illegal activities, including running illegal alcohol and illegal Chinese immigrants. Harry makes many decisions based on financial considerations that involve the sacrifice of many people, including close friends like his first mate, Eddie. The character of Harry is assumed to be made up of many of the experiences and stories of Hemingway while he was living in Key West during the end of his life.

Edwin Henry

Edwin Henry is in "The Denunciation," "The Butterfly and the Tank" ,"Night Before Battle," "Under the Ridge," "and "Landscape with Figures."

Edwin Henry is a filmmaker who is recording the battles of the Spanish Civil War. One of his favorite Madrid hangouts is Chicote's, which caters to Loyalists. Many of his experiences in Madrid involve incidents that happen at this restaurant. Edwin becomes friendly with many of the International Brigades in the area and films many of the battle



scenes both in Madrid and in the caves surrounding the area. Edwin is a Loyalist, with strong connections to the falling Spanish Royal Government. The character of Edwin Henry is assumed to represent Hemingway's experiences during the Spanish Civil War, including his Loyalist sympathies and activities during the war.

Mr. Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler is in "I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something," and "Great News from the Mainland."

Mr. Wheeler is a writer who has a young son with an apparent talent in writing. When he discovers that his son has copied his prize-winning story, he realizes that something is seriously wrong with his son. Mr. Wheeler attempts to bond with his son throughout his life, including the time that his son spends in a mental institution.

Stevie Wheeler

Stevie Wheeler is in "I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something," and "Great News from the Mainland."

Stevie copies a story from a library book in order to win a school prize. Several years later, he is in a mental institution in Florida. He receives electric shock therapy among other treatments. He calls his father to announce his hoped-for recovery.

Francis Macomber of "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

Francis Macomber is a wealthy man married to a once-beautiful woman names Margaret. The two of them go on a safari trip together. On the first day, Francis shoots and wounds a lion but is scared to pursue the animal in order to kill it. Everyone calls him a coward. The next day, he shoots and kills a buffalo. This gives him great confidence and makes him think he can escape from his unhappy life. His wife Margaret accidentally shoots at him when another buffalo charges at him.

Margaret Macomber of "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

Margaret was once a beautiful woman. She is now married to Francis Macomber because he is wealthy. The two go on a safari trip together. After Francis fails to kill a lion, Margaret ridicules him. The next day, when he is successful, she senses the change in him and shoots him in the back of the head, claiming it is an accident.



Paco of "The Capital of the World"

Paco arrives from the Spanish countryside to work as a waiter in Madrid. He admires bullfighters and wants to become one. One night at the restaurant, he and his friend, Enrique, who works in the kitchen, play a bullfighting game. Enrique uses knives to simulate bull horns and charges at Paco. Paco dies in an accident during this game.

Manuel Garcia of "The Undefeated"

Manuel Garcia is a bullfighter. He goes to his friend, a bullfight promoter, to give him a job. The only thing available is a night match. Manuel competes in before a bored audience and defeats the bull after a long struggle. The crowd does not care about him, but he is content with his dream of bullfighting.

Jimmy of "A Train Trip," and "The Porter"

Jimmy lives with his father in the countryside. On a train trip to Canada, Jimmy and his father observe a scary encounter with two prisoners. Jimmy has a long conversation with the porter on the train, who describes how he has been affected by racism.

Jimmy's father of "A Train Trip," and "The Porter"

Jimmy's father is trying to teach his son to be a man. On the one hand, he includes his son in the plot with the prisoners on the train, in order for Jimmy to see the violence and blood. He also has a strong appetite for hard alcohol and spends a lot of the train trip passed out in his bed.

Littless of "The Last Good Country"

Littless is Nick Adams' younger sister. When Nick has to run away from the police, Littless goes with him. She wants to bond with her brother. Littless is one of the few positive female relationships in Nick's life. Nick is strongly protective of her and tries to take care of her on the trip.

Dr. Adams

Dr. Adams is in "The Indian Camp," "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," and "Ten Little Indians."

Dr. Adams is the strongest male influence on his son, Nick. Dr. Adams teaches his son to hunt and fish. He also teaches his son that sex is very bad. Nick grows up trying to understand his father and live up to his father's ideal of masculinity. This leads Nick to try and prove himself in hunting, fishing, and war. None of these are fulfilling to Nick's



need to prove himself to his father. Even after his father's death, Nick is unable to come to terms with him.

Mrs. Adams of "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife"

Mrs. Adams is almost completely absent from Nick's life. Apart from some Christian Science Magazines, Nick's mother is completely negated in the stories of Nick's childhood. His major relationship is with his father, and briefly with his sister, Littless, who stands in as a neutral female figure.

Billy of "The End of Something," "The Three Day Blow," and "Ten Little Indians"

Billy is Nick's childhood friend. Billy plays many strange roles in Nick's life. At one point, Billy convinces Nick to break up with his girlfriend, Marjorie. Billy often goes on hunting trips with Nick. During these trips, Billy goes off alone so Nick can have sex with his sister, Trudy.

Prudence of "Ten Little Indians"

Prudence, an Indian girl, is Nick's girlfriend. When he comes home from a Fourth of July celebration, his father tells him that he saw Prudence in the woods with another man.

Trudy of "Fathers and Sons"

Trudy is the sister of Nick's friend, Billy. On hunting trips, Billy leaves Nick and Trudy alone so that they can have sex together.

David of "An African Story"

David and his father are in Africa. David sees an old bull elephant. His father goes to hunt the elephant, and David regrets having told his father about the elephant. The elephant represents loyalty to David while his father represents violence and blood sport. David is one of the many sons in Hemingway stories who feels betrayed by his father and yet needs to respect him as a man.

Helena of "The Strange Country"

Helena is much younger than her boyfriend, Robert. The two of them have run away from Helena's mother in London. They use fake names on their trip across the U.S.. Helena likes Robert to call her "daughter." In New Orleans, Helena confesses over absinthe that she has fantasies about saving Robert.



Robert of "The Strange Country"

Robert has had many wives and many problems with relationships. His relationship with Helena is very fatherly. He calls her "daughter." He worries that he will ruin their relationship in the same way that he ruined every other relationship. During their trip across country, he remembers traveling many of the same paths with his other wives or with his children. In New Orleans, Helena's stories about rescuing him make him feel very strange and he realizes that he is no longer in love with her.

Harry of "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"

Harry and his wealthy wife go on safari in Africa. Harry cuts himself and the wound turns gangrenous. Throughout the night, Harry is dying from the infection. Aside from the part where Harry dies, the story is believed to be highly autobiographical. Hemingway, himself, went on a safari financed by his wealthy wife.

Old Man at the Bridge of "The Old Man at the Bridge"

The old man has been evacuated from his hometown. On his way out, he becomes very tired and sits to rest under a bridge, though the sounds of the invading army are clearly heard in the distance. He is unable to run any further and has given up. He represents all the regular people who are caught up in and destroyed by war.

Liz Coates of "Up in Michigan"

Liz Coates is a simple girl who works as a housekeeper for Mr. and Mrs. Smith. She develops a crush on a local blacksmith, Jim Gilmore. They go on a walk one evening when Jim is drunk. Jim has sex with her against her will. She does not know what to do and leaves without saying anything to anyone.

Jim Gilmore of "Up in Michigan"

Jim Gilmore is one of Hemingway's ideal men. He makes a living off his work as a blacksmith and enjoys hunting. He drinks heavily and rapes Liz without any struggle or emotion. He most likely does not remember the encounter.

Marjorie of "The End of Something"

Marjorie is the first love of Nick Adams. Nick breaks up with her to please his friend, Billy. However, Nick regrets breaking up with her. Marjorie is one of a series of women that Nick is unable to maintain an emotional relationship with.



Adolph Francis of "The Battler"

Nick meets Adolph Francis when he jumps off a train. Adolph is a traveling homeless man who had a partner named Bugs. Adolph was a boxer who traveled with a girl who claimed to be his sister. He eventually married this girl. Adolph's violent reactions parallel Nick's complicated relationships with women, including his sister Littleless.

Luz of "A Very Short Story"

When Nick is wounded in Italy, he meets Luz, a nurse. They develop a relationship and plan to marry after the war. When Nick returns home to the U.S., Luz writes him a letter stating that she has fallen in love with an Italian man and does not want to marry Nick anymore.

Harold Krebs of "Soldier's Home"

Harold Krebs returns from World War I without any significant war stories or experiences. Everyone feels that he is out of place. Harold tries to adapt to regular life in his hometown, but ends up disappointing everyone. He chooses to leave and to go to live in the city where he will not embarrass anyone else.

Hubert Elliot of "Mr. and Mrs. Elliot"

Hubert Elliot believes in sexual purity. He marries a woman much older than him because they are both sexually pure. Their marriage begins happily but over time, they develop separate lives, including separate sleeping arrangements. Hubert writes many poems during their marriage.

The American Couple

The American Couple is in "Cat in the Rain," "Out of Season," "In Another Country," "Hills Like White Elephants," "A Canary for One," and "The Sea Change."

Although they are not necessarily the same American couple, these couples all fall into the same patterns. An American woman and an American man always seem to be on the verge of ending their relationship. Some couples divorce, some separate, and others have an abortion. All of them share the same inability to connect on an emotional level.



Peduzzi of "In Another Country"

Peduzzi is an old Italian gardener who finds a new source of money in showing around tourists. He does not understand what these tourists want to do or see and ends up spoiling the whole excursion.

George of "Cross Country Snow," and "The Killers"

George and Nick are friends who meet in Europe. They go on ski trips together. Back in the U.S., George runs a lunch counter, where he and Nick get involved in a murder when two men arrive to kill a regular customer.

Joe the Jockey of "My Old Man"

Joe has been a jockey for many years. When he is unable to race, he bets on horseracing, including fixing some races with the help of some other crooked jockeys. Joe buys a horse to train himself. During a race, the horse throws him off, killing him. The other jockeys make fun of him and ridicule him for his history as a gambler.

Al and Max of "The Killers"

Al and Max arrive at George's lunch counter to kill a regular customer, Mr. Anderson. When Anderson does not show up, they have to leave to seek him elsewhere.

Jack the Boxer of "Fifty Grand"

Jack has been a boxer for many years. He approaches his last fight knowing that he will lose. He bets fifty thousand dollars against himself. He fights for eleven rounds against his opponent before losing the match.

Dr. Wilcox of "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

Dr. Wilcox is not a good doctor. He carries around a medical guide to treat patients. One patient wants to be castrated because of his disturbing his sexual thoughts. The patient tries to perform the surgery himself. Dr. Wilcox is unable to help him in time because he cannot find the proper treatment in his medical guide.

Paco of "The Mother of a Queen"

Paco is a homosexual bullfighter that has returned to Mexico after a stay in Spain. He cares only about his own appearance. He lets his own mother be turned out of her



grave because he refuses to pay the fees. He also refuses to pay back his friend all the money that he has borrowed during his trip to Spain.

Mr. Frazer of "The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio"

Mr. Frazer translates for Cayetano when he is brought into the hospital. Frazer's one pleasure is listening to the radio broadcasts that reach the remote hospital. Frazer contemplates the opium of the people and determines that everyone needs something to make them happy and content in their lives. For him, it is the radio.

Luis Delgado of "The Denunciation"

Luis Delgado is a fascist but he puts on the uniform of the loyalist to go into Chicote's restaurant. Edwin Henry sends a message to the government security office through one of the waiters. Luis Delgado is arrested and taken away from the restaurant.

Pedro of "The Butterfly and the Tank"

Pedro enters Chicote's with a flit gun. He sprays perfume on several of the waiters before some of the restaurant customers drag him outside and beat him up. He returns to the restaurant to spray everyone in the room with his flit gun. Someone in the room shoots him. His wife comes the next morning to retrieve his body.

Al of "Night Before Battle"

Al is a tank commander who is preparing to return to battle the next day. His biggest concerns are taking a bath and getting something good to eat. Before he goes to sleep, he tells Edwin that he wants to meet for dinner after the battle, although he knows he is unlikely to return from the battle.

Maria of "Nobody Ever Dies"

Maria's brother and friends are killed during a communist raid in Cuba. When the police confront Maria, she takes on a saint-like confidence that is similar to Joan of Arc.

Blindy of "A Man of the World"

Blindy was in a fight where his eyes were gouged out and bitten off by his opponent. Blindy spends his days wandering from bar to bar looking for change left in the slot machines. He is proud of his life, especially in his appreciation for humor.



The Porter of "The Porter"

The porter on the train to Canada has a significant conversation with little Jimmy. He shows the boy a razor trick and explains that this is one of the few tricks used by black men to fight in a racist society.



Objects/Places

Africa

Many of Hemingway's stories take place during African safaris.

Madrid

Madrid is the capital city of Spain, where much of the action of the Spanish Civil War takes place. Edwin Henry lives in Madrid while he captures the war on film and learning about it through his contacts at Chicote's restaurant.

Horton's Bay

Horton's Bay is a popular tourist location in Michigan that was previously a prosperous lumber mill.

Cuba

Cuba is an island off the coast of Florida. During Hemingway's time, it was a popular spot for wealthy Americans to vacation.

Key West

Key West is part of the American territory off the coast of Florida. Hemingway characters often travel between Key West and Cuba for both work and pleasure.

Chicote's

Chicote's is an elegant restaurant in Madrid that is often full of loyalist supporters during the Spanish Civil War. The restaurant has a good reputation with many of the foreign residents of Madrid, including Edwin Henry.

Fascist

Francisco Franco led the Fascist Party in Spain. This right-wing nationalist group began attacking the Spanish government in 1936. After many years of war, the Fascists won the Spanish Civil War and were in control of Spain through the late 1970s.



Loyalist

The Loyalist side of the Spanish Civil War included those who supported the Spanish royal family and other political groups, including the communists, and the anarchists. Ernest Hemingway supported this side.

Spanish Civil War

The Spanish Civil War lasted from 1936 to 1939, and ended with the victory of the Fascists under Francisco Franco.

Mussolini

Mussolini was the Fascist leader of Italy before and during World War II. His policies included massive reforms, including the outlaw of prostitution, which were not really enforced.

Matador

A matador participates in a bullfighting ceremony. He kills the bull by landing a series of knife cuts into the animal. The fight is finished when the matador stabs the bull for the final time in the back, just above the head.

Picador

The picador stabs the bull in the neck and shoulders to weaken the muscles during the first round of the bullfight.

Mt. Kilimanjaro

One of the tallest mountains in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro is located in northern Tanzania.

Smyrna

Smyrna is a city that was under Greek control until 1922 when it was retaken by the Turks and made parts of the Turkish Republic. Its modern name is Izmir.

Ojibway

Otherwise known as the Chippewa, the Ojibway is a large Native American tribe that lives around the Great Lakes in the U.S. and Canada.



Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers occur at many times throughout the stories of Nick Adams. The insect represents innocence through its connection to Nick's childhood activities.

Italian Hospitals

Nick and other narrators that serve on the Italian front in World War I spend a lot of time in Italian hospitals recovering from injuries.

The Cafy

Many stories take place in public places, such as cafes. During these scenes, people discuss the emptiness of their lives. These cafes are often located along transportation routes; specifically, train stations.

A Denunciation

A denunciation is made against someone for his or her political beliefs. Luis Delgado is denounced as a fascist to the loyalist government.

International Brigade

The International Brigade consisted of the many foreigners who participated in the Spanish Civil War, primarily on the side of the Loyalist government. Ernest Hemingway was one of them.



Social Concerns/Themes/Characters

In this volume, which contains seventy separate pieces of fiction, Hemingway addresses a broad spectrum of social concerns and themes. Excluded from this discussion are the first forty-nine stories in this volume, which have been in print since 1938 and have generated a vast amount of critical commentary. These are the stories on which Hemingway's reputation as a master of the short story rests. There are two other categories of "story" included in the collection. Part two is subtitled "Short Stories Published in Books or Magazines Subsequent to 'The First Forty-nine,'" including fourteen pieces; the third part is headed "Previously Unpublished Fiction," and includes seven new pieces, ostensibly "short stories."

Of the fourteen pieces in the second section, three are segments from novels ("One Trip Across," and "The Tradesman's Return" from *To Have and Have Not* and "An African Story" from *The Garden of Eden*); two are not, properly speaking, short stories but fables — "The Good Lion" and "The Faithful Bull"; one, "Summer People," is a very early story (1924), with a corrupt text (missing page), yet it is still of considerable interest even if Hemingway never intended to publish it; another text of great interest is "The Last Good Country," not a story at all, but a posthumously edited, rewritten, and bowdlerized portion of a novel-in-progress manuscript that Hemingway worked on between 1952 and 1958. Thus only seven of the fourteen purported short stories published in this section may accurately be called short stories published with Hemingway's approval and final editing. These are "The Denunciation," "The Butterfly and the Tank," "Night Before Battle," "Under the Ridge," "Nobody Ever Dies," "Get a Seeing-Eyed Dog," and "A Man of the World." The first five date from the late 1930s and constitute a grouping of Spanish Civil War stories.

The social concerns and themes of these Spanish Civil War stories turn on the complex political issues brought into focus by that conflict: questions of left and right, Communism and Fascism, and every shade and nuance of political and social engagement or disengagement. As a group, these stories represent Hemingway's effort to clarify for himself his own political attitudes toward the Spanish Civil War, as a prelude to the writing of his masterpiece about that conflict, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940). Social and political concerns are the strong point of these stories, characterization the weakest point. The first story, "The Denunciation" (1938) deals with the question of the writer and narrator of the tale as a foreign observer of a war, and the attendant moral and aesthetic involvement and responsibility of such a writer. There are troublesome currents in this story, and some critics feel that Hemingway is engaged here in self-denunciation; that he is confessing his own guilt over his attacks on fellow writer and former close friend, John Dos Passos; or, more generally, confessing his personal bad faith in certain aspects of his involvement with the Spanish situation. Of course, other critics argue that the writer-narrator is not to be confused with Ernest Hemingway. In this instance, that argument does not ring true, for it seems that there is much that is deeply personal in this story, as in others in this series.



The second story of the sequence, "The Butterfly and the Tank," evokes the same questions of moral responsibility.

In addition, some commentators find here — and throughout this story group — a pattern of "wasteful deaths" and "Christ figures." The third story of the series, "Night Before Battle," deals again with action close to Hemingway's experience and observation of the war, the disparity between the soldier's view of war and the view of the writer that reports that war. The fourth story, "Nobody Ever Dies," generally considered the least successful of the lot, probably represents Hemingway's working sketch of material that would appear in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, such as the scenes of the two heroes and the two Marias. Perhaps the best of this group of stories is "Under the Ridge."

Whether one agrees with the critical view that this is the final variation of the theme of Christian sacrifice and communion or, more straightforwardly, sees it as an eloquent evocation of the theme of the illusory nature of victory in war, it is a fine and moving story, almost up to the level of Hemingway's earlier stories. This series of Spanish Civil War stories, then, which Hemingway considered making into a separate collection, is important, for him, as a warm-up exercise for *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. For the student of that novel, they provide valuable background, sidelights, and undertones.

The two other stories, properly speaking, in the second part of *The Complete Short Stories*, are "Get a Seeing-Eye Dog" and "A Man of the World." These are very late Hemingway stories, the last to be published (in 1957), while he was still alive. They are both sketchy and dimly focused, and what they demonstrate, more than anything else, is the tremendous decline in Hemingway's mastery of the short story form. Commentators have rarely deigned to mention these stories, except to dismiss them in brief asides as trivial and abortive sketches from the hand of a failing master.

Some observers refuse to regard any of the pieces in the third section ("Previously Unpublished Fiction") as short stories, or even as fiction worthy of publication, regarding them as sketches or family anecdotes. Also included in this section are excerpts from a novel manuscript (Jimmy Breen) written and abandoned by Hemingway in the 1920s. The last so-called story of the volume, "The Strange Country," is an excerpt from a fragmentary Hemingway manuscript which was apparently an early version of certain *Islands in the Stream* (1970) materials. These pieces, like most of the other newly collected and newly published fiction in this volume, can hardly be said to be realized fiction, capable of sustaining thematic and stylistic and character analyses. Obviously, since Hemingway chose not to publish most of this material, he was well aware that this work fell far short of the mastery evident in the stories he had written and published between 1923 and 1938. Yet it is possible to argue that it is valuable to have under the covers of one book such pieces as the early "Summer People," which sketches a vivid picture of the young artist and the young lover, and the later "Strange Country," which gives an all-too-vivid portrait of a somehow prematurely ravaged and diminished older artist and lover. Some readers, too, will be grateful for all the Hemingway they can get.

The reception of *The Complete Short Stories* has been a mixture of outrage, disdain, and disappointment. The title of the volume is a misnomer in other ways, too. Not only is much of this material inappropriately given the label "short story," but the volume is far from being what it says it is — the complete stories. Other stories remain unpublished, some of them better, more finished than some included here.

In fact, since the publication of this volume, two of these stories, "A Lack of Passion" and "Philip Haines Was a Writer," have appeared in *The Hemingway Review* (Spring 1990). In summary, students of Hemingway will have to wait for another volume if they are truly to have the complete stories, and the critical verdict appears to demand that such a volume should include material that is not here and should certainly omit some of the falsely labelled short stories and the fragmentary, abortive material that is included here.



Themes

War

Ernest Hemingway personally witnessed a series of wars in Europe, including World Wars I and II, and the Spanish Civil War. These experiences are shown in his short stories. Two of his enduring characters, Nick Adams and Edwin Henry, each provide commentary on the war that they observe. In addition to their perspectives, many stories tell of the violence and heartbreak of war, linking it to an ideal of true manhood.

Nick Adams experiences World War I, and the stories about him incorporate many of Hemingway's own experiences. The defining experience for both Hemingway and Nick is his injury while serving on the Italian front. This injury shakes both the character and the man. This experience shapes the idea of the "Lost Generation," or the soldiers who do not understand the meaning of the war that they fight and see the whole production as senseless. At the same time, however, Nick must prove his manhood. Many of the stories record his mental instability after his injuries, and his slow acceptance of his place in the war. However, Nick's war experiences are best contrasted by the tranquility that he seeks in nature and friendship.

Edwin Henry, like Nick, observes a foreign war. His role as filmmaker gives him an objective perspective on the fighting, although his loyalist sympathies mirror those of his creator. Edwin Henry goes between two worlds. On the one hand, he watches the political turmoil of Madrid as the loyalist and fascist sides show themselves in social situations, such as Chicote's restaurant. On the other hand, Edwin is present in the caves and hideouts along the battlefield, recording on film without getting involved in the action. Edwin's perspective of the Spanish Civil War focuses on many of the same concerns Nick has. He accepts the violence of war and the random chance that decides which people live and which die. He also watches the mistakes of the leaders and is powerless to do anything about them, much like the common soldiers that he meets.

For Hemingway, the war is an activity in itself that is rarely tied to the cause of the war. Although Nick and Edwin both choose sides in war, these choices are of very little concern. They simply define an enemy. There is little to no political commentary mixed with the commentary on war, and consequently, no clear right or wrong. Instead, the focus remains on the fighting itself: not as a field of honor, but a field of endurance.

Bullfighting

The Spanish bullfight provides an image that symbolizes both the violent blood sport and the honor and tradition that is usually lacking in Hemingway's portrayal of war. The bullfight is a tragic exercise, one in which men strive for honor and courage among the routines of everyday life. The bullfighter is the soldier who fights his battle alone on the



stage of honor and ritual instead of the senseless death so often seen in the wars of the day.

The young boy, Paco, who dreams of being a bullfighter only to die in a game in "The Capital of the World" is a good example of the idealization of the bullfighter role in Hemingway's work. Paco is surrounded by examples of failed bullfighters who think only of paying the bills, but he is undeterred in his dreams. This youthful hopefulness defines the bullfight, keeping it as an exercise in honor that cannot be tarnished by the failures of others.

This idea is continues in the story of Manuel Garcia, the determined bullfighter in a world that has long since become bored with the sport. Manuel Garcia does not fight for the love of a crowd. Often the crowds that watch him are uninterested in the spectacle and do not care about the honor. Instead, Manuel fights for himself and for his own ideal of a man. The bullfight is a test of his manhood and his personal honor, not of his public persona. While outside the bullring Manuel is poor and unimportant, inside the ring he shines as the bullfighter.

Fishing and Hunting

Despite his travels around the world, Hemingway always returns to hunting and fishing in his stories. These two activities are shown to be the most natural exercises of manhood, and the skills necessary to be a good hunter and fisherman are also the ones that are most valued in Hemingway's version of masculinity. Like bullfighting, hunting and fishing are generally presented as solitary activities in which the man has a chance to bond with nature. Like his other themes of war and bullfighting, hunting and fishing are best practiced by men alone, without the companionship of women.

The childhood experiences of Nick Adams clearly illustrate the relationship between hunting and manhood. Nick recognizes that the skills that his father taught him in regard to hunting and fishing were the basis of their relationship as well as the worldview that they shared. Nick and his father live in a world without women and they use their relationship with nature to compensate for their rejection of human fertility. In "Fathers and Sons," Nick realizes that his father's teachings were only about hunting and fishing and did not extend to sexuality, a subject about which he learned only negative superstition.

Returning from war, Nick seeks solace in nature and the rhythms of the streams that he knew as a child. There is a contentedness in Nick when he is fishing and hunting that is absent during his other activities. Nick is always reluctant to put down roots, but when he is alone in nature, he behaves as though he never wants to leave. In some respects, he seems to forget the world of people that he has left; and, along with leaving that world behind, he leaves behind the pain and fear that he felt during the war. Fishing and hunting become the symbol of manhood for Nick Adams, because they are the activities that most separate him from other people.



This connection with nature is perverted when it is done for financial gain, as with Harry in "One Trip Across." Harry, the deep-sea fisherman, no longer fishes for pleasure or solitude. Instead, he views the ocean as a place to scavenge for wreckage from which to make a profit. Fishing is perverted by the men who pay to fish as tourists but who have no real natural connection to the fish or to the sea. For these reasons, the senseless violence of Harry is more reminiscent of the wars that Nick sought to escape than as a refuge from them.



Style

Points of View

The short stories are told in a variety of perspectives. Most are told in the third person omniscient, although there are some exceptions in which the first person is used. In all cases, however, there is a limit to the amount of inner thoughts and feelings that are expressed by any of the characters. Many of the stories rely on the idea that the reader does not know or cannot understand the past lives of the characters, and details about their backgrounds and their personalities are reduced to the minimum in many instances.

Character development throughout the stories is very stark. The reader is often the observer of a conversation or event that takes place in a public place. The reader is often kept ignorant about the cause of the conversation or event and often has only a little more information than the casual observer of such a scene in real life would have. One of the few characters who is developed sufficiently to understand his motives and actions is Nick Adams, who is studied from childhood to adulthood and through some traumatic experiences. Even with Nick, however, key events are left out and the reader has to imagine what they are.

Setting

The settings of Hemingway stories range as widely as the writer himself did. Many stories take place in Wyoming, Michigan, or Florida in the United States. Others range throughout Europe, dominated by Italy, France, and Spain, with many interludes into Switzerland. In addition, much of the high adventure occurs in Africa and Cuba.

The element that unifies all the settings are the characters. In all situations, there is always at least one character that knows everything about the location and is always a master of his surroundings. While the child Nick Adams may not understand anything about the people around him, he is securely attached to the land that he inhabits, particularly the forests and fishing streams of the area. Similarly, although Edwin Henry is a visitor in Madrid, he knows the best restaurants and is always involved with the most important people and events.

At the same time, the master of his surroundings is usually accompanied by someone else who does not know where they are or how to behave. Just as the skillful guide, Harry, assists the rich tourist fisherman, Johnson, in understanding the area, many Hemingway characters require less knowledgeable foils to showcase their own skills.



Language and Meaning

The Hemingway short stories have the same brief, journalistic quality of his longer works. Events are described with the minimum of detail and it is often difficult for readers to determine what is going on. Because many of the stories take place in foreign countries, there is often a tendency to use foreign phrases, particularly French, Spanish, and Italian. For the most part, these are told in the context of the narrative and are easy for the reader to figure out. At some points, however, such as in "Wine of Wyoming," whole conversations weave in and out of French, making it difficult for the reader to understand what is being said.

One of the most specialized language issues present in Hemingway stories is the use of bullfighting terms. Many of the stories use the Spanish terms for the people, equipment, and exercises during the bullfight. Many readers unfamiliar with bullfighting or the Spanish language might need additional resources to understand the specific things being referred to. At the same time, however, the plot of the bullfighting stories can be followed without understanding the specific vocabulary.

Structure

While each story stands on its own, several dominant storylines continue over several stories. Many of the stories cover the same thematic territory, providing the reader some context to navigate the various plots. For the most part, there is no clear time order and often no clear cause and effect relationship among the events of individual stories.

The longest of these is the Nick Adams series. These stories are not presented in time order, and can often be confusing in how they relate to each other. In particular, there are many events missing from Nick's service on the Italian front in World War I. Because they are scattered throughout the short story collection, the reader often picks up the Nick Adams story in the midst of other stories and must recall the information that they previously read about Nick.

The second longest series is that of Edwin Henry, who is present in all the stories about the Spanish Civil War. Though he is often referred to as Enrique, his film crew maintains the continuity of the character throughout the stories. These stories are not presented in chronological order and have no clear connection in their plots.

The smaller series contain the Key West and Cuba tales that feature Harry, the deep-sea fisherman who scavenges the area. There is no clear timeline for these stories. The other small series are the two stories about Mr. Wheeler and his son, Stevie, who goes insane. These two stories have a clear time order but they lack most of the plot detail necessary to make them easily understandable.



Quotes

"Their figures stay boyish when they're fifty. The great American boy-men. Damned strange people. But he liked this Macomber now. Damned strange fellow. Probably meant the end of cuckoldry too. Well, that would be a damned good thing. Damned good thing. Beggar has probably been afraid all his life. Don't know what started it. But over now. Hadn't had time to be afraid with the buff. That and being angry too. Motor car too. Motor cars made it familiar. Be a damn fire eater now. He'd seen it in the war work the same way. More of a change than any loss of virginity. Fear gone like an operation. Something else grew in its place. Main thing a man had. Made him into a man. Women knew it too. No bloody fear." (The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber)

"The boy Paco had never known about any of this nor about what all these people would be doing on the next day and on the other days to come. He had no idea how they really lived nor how they ended. He did not even realize they ended. He died, as the Spanish phrase has it, full of illusions." (The Capital of the World)

"We must all be cut out for what we do, he thought. However you make your living is where your talent lies. He had sold vitality, in one form or another, all his life and when your affections are not too involved you give much better value for the money. He had found that out but he would never write that, now, either. No, he would not write that, although it was well worth writing." (The Snows of Kilimanjaro)

"Later when he started to operate Uncle George and three Indian men held the woman still. She bit Uncle George on the arm and Uncle George said, 'Damn squaw bitch!' and the young Indian who had rowed Uncle George over laughed at him. Nick held the basin for his father." (Indian Camp)

"Krebs acquired the nausea in regard to experience that is the result of untruth or exaggeration, and when he occasionally met another man who had really been a soldier and they talked a few minutes in the dressing room at a dance he fell into the easy pose of the old soldier among other soldiers: that he had been badly, sickeningly frightened all the time. In this way he lost everything." (Soldier's Home)

"In the front row of seats the substitute bull-fight critic of El Heraldo took a long drink of the warm champagne. He has decided it was not worth while to write a running story and would write up the corrida back in the office. What the hell was it anyway? Only a nocturnal." (The Undefeated)

"'What's the mechanics of this place?' Guy asked. 'Do I have to let her put her arm around my neck?' 'Certainly,' I said. 'Mussolini has abolished the brothels. This is a restaurant.'" (Che Ti Dice La Patria?)

"He lay for a long time with his face in the pillow, and after awhile he forgot to think about Prudence and finally he went to sleep. When he awoke in the night he heard the wind in the hemlock trees outside the cottage and the waves of the lake coming in on



the shore, and he went back to sleep. In the morning there was a big wind blowing and the waves were running high up on the beach and he was awake a long time before he remembered that his heart was broken." (Ten Indians)

"When she died I made the report to the commune and I put her in the shed across the top of the big wood. When I started to use the big wood she was stiff and I put her up against the wall. Her mouth was open and when I came into the shed at night to cut up the big wood, I hung the lantern from it." (An Alpine Idyll)

"Sometimes the stream ran through an open meadow, and in the dry grass I would catch grasshoppers and use them for bait and sometimes I would catch grasshoppers and toss them into the stream and watch them float along swimming on the stream and circling on the surface as the current took them and then disappear as a trout rose." (Now I Lay Me)

"He disliked bars and bodegas. A clean, well-lighted cady was a very different thing. Now, without thinking further, he would go home to his room. He would lie in the bed and finally, with daylight, he would go to sleep. After all, he said to himself, it is probably only insomnia. Many must have it." (A Clean Well-Lighted Place)

"The Paris part came earlier and he was not frightened of it except when she had gone off with someone else and the fear that they might take the same driver twice. That was what frightened about that. Never about the front. He never dreamed about the front now any more but what frightened him so that he could not get rid of it was that long yellow house and the different width of the river." (A Way You'll Never Be)

"I told him what I thought of him right there on the Gran Via. In front of three friends, but he speaks to me now when I meet him as through we were friends. What kind of blood is it that makes a man like that?" (The Mother of a Queen)

"It does seem like he didn't have to have got it. I don't know what to do. I wish to Christ he hadn't got any kind of malady. I don't know why he had to get a malady." (One Reader Writes)

"Revolution, Mr. Frazer thought, is no opium. Revolution is a catharsis; an ecstasy which can only be prolonged by tyranny. The opiums are for before and for after. He was thinking well, a little too well." (The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio)

"But I didn't worry about him anymore, because who was going to believe him? Mr. Sing wouldn't make any complaints. The Chinks weren't going to. You know the boy that sculled them out wasn't. Eddy would mouth about it sooner or later, maybe, but who believes a rummy?" (One Trip Across)

"Chicote's in the old days in Madrid was a place sort of like The Stork, without the music and the debutantes, or the Waldorf's men's bar if they let girls in. You know, they came in, but it was a man's place and they didn't have any status." (The Denunciation)



"The Negro was frightened and he put his fingers all the way around the string of blue voodoo beads and held them tight. But they could not help his fear because he was up against an older magic now." (Nobody Ever Dies)

"I care, David thought. I saw him in the moonlight and he was alone but I had Kibo. Kibo has me too. The bull wasn't doing any harm and now we've tracked him to where he came to see his dead friend and now we're going to kill him. It's my fault. I betrayed him." (An African Story)

"'Blood is thicker than water,' my father said. 'That's the first proverb you run up against when you lead an active life.' 'It doesn't mean that,' I said, 'It means about family.' 'No,' said my father. 'It means just that, but it always surprises you. I remember the first time I found it out'." (A Train Trip)

"Now he knew that boy had never been any good. He had thought so often looking back on things. And it was sad to know that shooting did not mean a thing." (I Guess Everything Reminds You of Something)



Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast two of the three bullfighting characters. What message is being conveyed about traditional masculinity in each of these characters?

Compare and contrast the African safaris presented in the collection. How is the couple from "Snows of Kilimanjaro" similar to that in "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber?" How are they different?

Compare the child Nick Adams to the child Jimmy of "A Train Trip." Describe their relationships with their fathers and how this influences their ideas about manhood.

Create a timeline of Nick Adams based on the information presented in the various stories about him. What can be said about his relationships with women? Do they change over time?

How does Hemingway use omission to make a statement about abortion and homosexuality? Why does he choose to refer to these topics without ever stating them?

Compare how Nick Adams is affected by his World War I experiences to how Edwin Henry is affected by his experiences in the Spanish Civil War.

How does Hemingway show his political views in his stories about the Spanish Civil War? Are there any other stories where Hemingway gives a political commentary?

How do the two children's stories, "The Good Lion," and "The Faithful Bull" fit into the collection? Do they belong there? Do they serve a purpose?



Copyright Information

Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults

Editor - Kirk H. Beetz, Ph.D.

Library of Congress
Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults

Includes bibliographical references.

Summary: A multi-volume compilation of analytical essays on and study activities for fiction, nonfiction, and biographies written for young adults.

Includes a short biography for the author of each analyzed work.

1. Young adults—Books and reading. 2. Young adult literature—History and criticism. 3.

Young adult literature—Bio-bibliography. 4. Biography—Bio-bibliography.

[1. Literature—History and criticism. 2. Literature—Bio-bibliography]

I. Beetz, Kirk H., 1952

Z1037.A1G85 1994 028.1'62 94-18048 ISBN 0-933833-32-6

Copyright ©, 1994, by Walton Beacham. All rights to this book are reserved. No part of this work may be used or reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or in any information or storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, write the publisher, Beacham Publishing, Inc., 2100 "S" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

Printed in the United States of America First Printing, November 1994