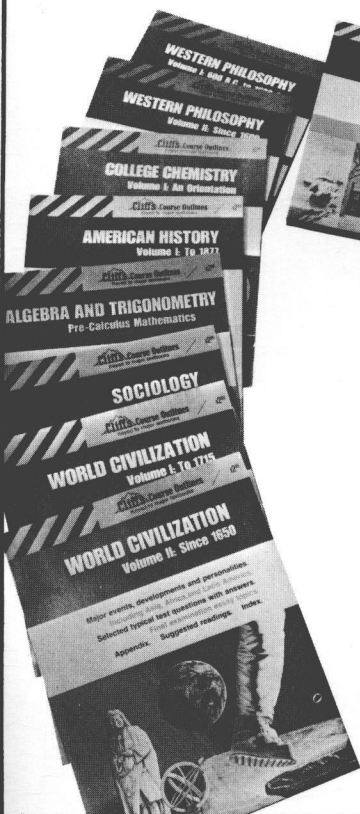


Hemingway **FOR WHOM**  
**THE BELL TOLLS**  
**NOTES**





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They are intended as a supplementary aid to the serious student. They serve to free the student from interminable and distracting note-taking in class so that he may listen intelligently to what the instructor is saying, or to the class discussion, making selective notes on these, secure in the knowledge that he has the basic understanding. They are also helpful in preparing for an examination, saving not merely the burden but the confusion of trying to re-read the full text under pressure, and disentangling from a mass of—often illegible—notes that which is of central importance.

THE NOTES ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TEXT ITSELF OR FOR THE CLASSROOM DISCUSSION OF THE TEXT, AND THE STUDENT WHO SO ATTEMPTS TO USE THEM IS DENYING HIMSELF THE VERY EDUCATION THAT HE IS PRESUMABLY GIVING HIS MOST VITAL YEARS TO ACHIEVE.

The critical evaluations have been prepared by experts with special knowledge of the individual texts who have usually had some years' experience in teaching the works. They are, however, not incontrovertible. No literary judgment is. Of any great work of literature there are many interpretations, and even conflicting views have value for the student (and the teacher), since the aim is not for the student to accept unquestioningly any one interpretation but to make his own.

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# FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

## NOTES

*including*

*Life and Background*

*General Introduction*

*List of Characters*

*Commentary*

*Notes on Main Characters*

*Critical Notes on The Code Hero,*

*Ideology, Style*

*Review Questions and Theme Topics*

*Selected Bibliography*

*by*

*LaRocque DuBose, M.A.*

*Dept. of Languages and Literature*

*Western State College of Colorado*

*consulting editor*

*James L. Roberts, Ph.D.*

*Department of English*

*University of Nebraska*

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## Life and Background

In his earlier years Hemingway relished the nickname "Champ," which exemplified his roistering, hard-fisted outdoor life of adventure. In his later years, he delighted in being called "Papa" and had the reputation of a worldwide celebrities' celebrity, almost a legendary character. He often helped to further the legend in lively ways. During World War II, when he was an American war correspondent, there was no doubt who had helped liberate the Ritz hotel in Paris. A guard was found posted at the entrance with a notice, "Papa took good hotel. Plenty stuff in the cellar."

Hemingway's colorful life began in quiet Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where he was born July 21, 1899. His father was a physician, and Ernest was the second of six children born to Dr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Hemingway. His mother, a devout, religious woman with considerable musical talent, hoped that Ernest would develop an interest in music. Ernest acquired his father's enthusiasm for guns and for fishing trips in the Michigan north woods, and that phase of his childhood formed important impressions reflected later in Nick Adams stories like "Indian Camp" and "Big Two-Hearted River."

Hemingway played high school football and learned to box, incurring permanent eye damage that caused the army to reject his repeated efforts to enlist in World War I. Boxing also gave Hemingway a lasting enthusiasm for prize fighting, material for stories, and a tendency to talk of his literary accomplishments later in boxing terms.

He edited the high school newspaper, twice ran away from home, and on graduating from high school, Hemingway headed for Kansas City to enlist despite parental objections that he was too young—seventeen. Rejected by the army, he went to the *Kansas City Star*, a national newspaper, where he added a year to his age and was hired as a reporter. (For that reason Hemingway's birth date is often given as 1898 rather than the correct 1899.)



Finally, Hemingway succeeded in joining a volunteer American Red Cross ambulance unit as a driver. He was so seriously wounded at Fossalta on the Italian Piave on July 8, 1918, that he recalled life slid from him, "like you'd pull a silk handkerchief out of a pocket by a corner," almost fluttered away, then returned. It is thought by some literary observers that the experience gave Hemingway a fear of his own fear and the lifetime need to continually test his courage through dangerous adventures.

After a dozen operations on his knee and recuperation in Milan, he returned, with an aluminum kneecap and two Italian decorations, to join the Italian infantry. These vivid experiences later provided background for *A Farewell to Arms* in 1929.

War—the cruelty and stoic endurance that it requires—forms a major part of Hemingway's writing, beginning with the *In Our Time* collection published in 1924 to his post-World War II novel, *Across the River and Into the Trees*. In addition to World War I action, Hemingway later covered the Greek-Turkish War in 1920, while the Spanish Civil War in 1937 provided material for his *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Following World War I, Hemingway returned to northern Michigan to read, write, and fish, and then to work for the *Toronto Star* in Canada. He lived briefly in Chicago, where he came to know Sherwood Anderson. In 1921 he married Hadley Richardson and they moved to Paris, where he was foreign correspondent for the *Toronto Star*. His newsbeat was all of Europe, and while still in his twenties, Hemingway had interviewed Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Mussolini. The years 1921-26 in Paris, when Hemingway was first developing his writing style and when his first son John was born, are recorded in *A Moveable Feast* (1964).

Sherwood Anderson had given Hemingway a letter of introduction to Gertrude Stein, who was living in Paris, and that proved to be his entrance into the world of working authors and artists who visited her home. It was she who mentioned a garage keeper's comment to Hemingway, "You are all a lost generation." That casual

remark became famous when Hemingway used it as an epigraph to his first major novel, *The Sun Also Rises*.

"Lost generation" came to signify the postwar generation and the literary movement produced by the young writers. These writers of the twenties were thought to reflect that generation's belief that their lives and hopes had been shattered by the war. They had been led down a glory trail to death not for noble, patriotic ideals, but for the greedy, materialistic gain of power groups. The high-minded sentiments of their elders were not to be trusted. Only reality was truth and that was harsh. Life was futile—nothing.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sherwood Anderson, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, and Gertrude Stein are among those usually credited with influencing Hemingway's early writing. Most of that early work was lost when a suitcase containing the first draft of his first novel and eighteen of his stories representing most of four years work was stolen from his wife Hadley on a train to Lausanne, Switzerland. Later, "My Old Man," one of two short stories that Hemingway had left was selected for Edward O'Brien's volume of *Best Short Stories of 1923*, which was dedicated to Hemingway.

Early Hemingway stories had appeared in German and French publications before the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine published "Fifty Grand," the short story that introduced his startling concept of crisp, concise dialog to the United States. In 1923, *Three Stories and Ten Poems* was published, followed in 1924 by the Paris edition of *in our time*. (The lack of capital letters was the current vogue to call attention to newness.) In 1925 *In Our Time* was published in the United States by Boni and Liveright, Sherwood Anderson's publishers, who rejected Hemingway's next book, *The Torrents of Spring*, a satire of Anderson's *Dark Laughter*. Scribner's published the rejected manuscript and that same year issued Hemingway's first successful novel, *The Sun Also Rises* (1926).

The Hemingways were divorced in 1927, the same year that he married *Vogue* writer Pauline Pfeiffer. In 1928 the Hemingways moved to Key West, Florida, where Patrick was born in 1929 and Gregory in 1932. The shocking event of 1928 for Hemingway was the suicide of his father, who had been ill with hypertension and

diabetes. It wasn't until 1940 that the experience was reflected in his writing through the thoughts of Robert Jordan in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and later characters sometimes expressed thoughts on suicide.

Between wars and books Hemingway traveled and pursued hunting and other sports. Bullfighting claimed his attention and resulted in *Death in the Afternoon*. His 1934 African safari yielded material for *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* and *Green Hills of Africa*.

In 1940, Hemingway and Pauline were divorced. He married writer Martha Gelhorn and they toured China before establishing in Cuba. When World War II began Hemingway volunteered his fishing boat, *Pilar*, and served with the U.S. Navy as a submarine spotter in the Caribbean. In 1944, he was a forty-five-year-old war correspondent barnstorming through Europe with the Allied invasion troops—and sometimes ahead of them.

Following his divorce in 1944, Hemingway married Mary Welsh, a *Time* magazine correspondent. They lived in Venice after the war before returning to *Finca Vigia* (Lookout Farm) near Havana, Cuba. In 1950, *Across the River and Into the Trees* appeared and was not a critical success. One of the reported comments was, "Papa is finished." His 1952 work, *The Old Man and the Sea* received the 1953 Pulitzer Prize.

In January of 1954 Hemingway was off for another African hunt and was reported dead after two airplane crashes in two days. He survived severe internal and spinal injuries and a concussion that impaired his eyesight for a period. He survived to read the numerous newspaper obituary notices and noted with great pleasure that they were favorable. That same year Hemingway received the Swedish Academy's Nobel Prize for Literature, "for his powerful style-forming mastery of the art of modern narration, as most recently evinced in *The Old Man and the Sea*."

Suddenly he was sixty and there was his birthday photograph in a national magazine. White-bearded and still full of ginger, Hemingway was booting an empty beer can high in the air along a road near his Ketchum, Idaho, home.

During 1961, Hemingway, plagued by high blood pressure and mental depression, received shock treatments during two long confinements at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He died July 2, 1961, at his home in Ketchum, Idaho, as the result of self-inflicted gunshot wounds and was buried in Ketchum.

In a manner, there were two Hemingways. One was the flamboyant adventurer—the lively legend in the spotlight. The other Hemingway was the skillful, sensitive author who patiently wrote, rewrote, and edited his work. *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) required eight months for writing the first draft and another five months for rewriting, according to Hemingway, who claimed to have rewritten the last page thirty-nine times. That writing discipline begun in the twenties persisted throughout his literary career. In discussing *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952), Hemingway is said to have read through the manuscript some two hundred times before releasing it. Hemingway, the colorful legend, was also the author who said, “What many another writer would be content to leave in massive proportions, I polish into a tiny gem.”

## General Introduction

*For Whom the Bell Tolls*, published in 1940, grew out of Hemingway's personal interest in the Spanish Civil War of the thirties. While still a foreign correspondent in Paris, Hemingway had watched the Spanish political situation developing under the reign of Alfonso XIII. He had visited Spain again during the summer of 1931 after the overthrow of the monarchy. He predicted the civil war would begin in 1935 and when it erupted in 1936, Hemingway began writing and making speeches to raise funds for the Loyalist cause. Later in 1937, he went to Spain to cover the war for the North American Newspaper Alliance. In reality, the Spanish Civil War was the first battleground for World War II, testing the forces of Nazism, Communism, and Fascism against either the republican or royal form of government. Many young men from the United States and other countries joined the Spanish Loyalist forces in defense of democratic ideals in a war that was won by the dictator, Francisco Franco. Since that war has tended to slip into the dimness of the shadow cast by World War II, the following review of historical and biographical background should clarify a number of things pertinent to the novel.

In the spring of 1931, after several years of civil strife and strikes, municipal elections were held in Spain. The parliamentary seats won in this election were divided between the leftists and rightists in such a way that an extremely dangerous situation was created. In view of this, and in the hope of avoiding civil war, King Alfonso XIII decided on voluntary exile. On April 13, 1931, the republic was proclaimed.

The Communist-Socialist coalition which ruled Spain during the first two years of the republic was, like its predecessors, plagued by strikes, and a general election was called for November, 1933. In this election, the rightists were returned to power with a large majority.

The Conservatives were, however, only able to keep themselves in power for about the same length of time that the leftists had. By February, 1936, when another general election was held, public opinion had swung back to its previous position. The leftists won this election by a small majority—256 seats to 217 for the Conservatives.

Five months after the leftists regained control of the government, José Calvas Otero, a powerful Monarchist-rightist, was assassinated. This was credited with precipitating a revolt which was led by the army, but which had obviously been planned for some time. General Francisco Franco was recalled from the Canary Islands, where he had been sent to keep him out of politics. He flew to Spanish Morocco on July 17 and quickly overthrew the government there, continuing on to Spain the next day.

Within a few hours after Franco's arrival in Spain, his forces had taken several of the larger Spanish cities, and garrisons of the army all over Spain were in revolt. Surprising and stubborn resistance from the government's militia brought this initial surge to a temporary halt, and the capital city of Madrid remained in the hands of the Loyalist-leftists.

Foreign intervention in this revolt which had turned into a civil war was an accomplished fact by August of 1936. Russia was sending "observers" and volunteers" as well as financial aid donated by its citizens to help in the leftist cause, but they were not industrially capable of giving a great deal of aid in the form of material. In support of the Monarchist-rightists, both Germany and Italy sent planes, tanks, and munitions in addition to the usual "observers" and "volunteers."

The quickly formed Loyalist-leftist forces managed to bring the war to a stalemate during the winter of 1936-37, but this situation was only temporary. By the spring of 1937 (the time during which the incidents of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* occur), the leftists had, however, gathered enough men and equipment to prevent Franco from overrunning the country. The Monarchist offensive proceeded, but slowly.

International politics played a great part in the civil war during the next two years, giving the advantage first to one side and then to the other. Throughout this period both sides committed sickening atrocities. The Loyalists were charged with the murders of hundreds of members of the clergy as well as the assassination of their political enemies, and the systematic bombing and strafing of nonmilitary objectives by the Monarchists was a portent of things to come in World War II.

By January of 1939, an almost completely effective blockade was preventing Loyalist troops from receiving further munitions and supplies. Resistance in towns and cities which had managed so far to hold out against Franco's troops began to collapse. Finally, on March 28, 1939, the well supplied Monarchist forces overcame the resistance of the besieged city of Madrid. The long and bitter civil war was over.

After World War I, Hemingway returned to the United States, but, by 1921 he was married and back in Europe as a foreign correspondent. He traveled extensively in Spain and was vitally interested in the political developments during the reign of Alfonso XIII, from 1923 until 1931. In 1928 he moved to Key West, Florida, and so was not present for the overthrow of the monarchy in 1931. He returned to Spain for a visit that summer, however, and learned what had happened from his friends there.

When the Conservatives were returned to power in 1933, Hemingway was traveling in Africa. He was not surprised by the failure of the liberal government for two reasons. First, he felt that "the mass of the people were not ready for it and did not want it." Second, though Spain had become more prosperous under the liberals, and though he agreed at least in principle with the civil reforms instituted by them, he realized that the peasants were receiving very little benefit from the government. The money was going where it had always gone—into the pockets of those in power.

Between 1933 and 1936, Hemingway carefully watched the political developments in Spain. When the civil war finally began in 1936, the only surprising thing to him was that it had come so

soon, for as early as the summer of 1935 he had predicted that war would come before the end of the decade.

In 1936 and 1937, Hemingway wrote and made speeches for the purpose of raising money for the Loyalist cause in the Spanish Civil War. Later in 1937, he went to Spain to cover the war for the North American Newspaper Alliance. His announcement, some months after he arrived in Spain, that he was writing a novel with the Spanish Civil War as its background, caused a great stir of excitement and anticipation in the literary world. The result was *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.



## List of Characters

### ***Robert Jordan***

An American college instructor of Spanish, fighting as a demolition expert with the Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War.

### ***Pablo***

Leader of the guerilla band whose aid Jordan enlists in the destruction of a bridge.

### ***Pilar***

Pablo's *mujer*, who has kept the band together in spite of the fact that Pablo has "gone bad."

### ***Maria***

A young girl whom the guerillas have rescued from enemy captivity and who falls in love with Jordan.

### ***Anselmo***

An old man, one of the few members of Pablo's band whom Jordan trusts.

### ***General Golz***

A Russian officer, one of the many military "observers" sent to aid the Spanish communists in the war, who is directing the forthcoming attack.

### ***Kashkin***

Another Russian, Jordan's predecessor as demolition man with Pablo's band. He is dead when the book opens.

### ***El Sordo***

The leader of another guerilla band which is hiding out in the vicinity of Pablo's cave.

### ***Joaquin***

A young boy, member of El Sordo's band.