

Student's Name

Independent Honors English

Authorship Review

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Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, on July 21, 1899, Ernest Hemingway grew up to be one of the most notable writers in 20th Century America, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 for his novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*. His writing career began on his high school newspaper, *Trapeze and Tabula*, and his interest in journalism continued after graduation when he took a job as a reporter at the *Kansas City Star*. In 1918, 19-year-old Ernest served as an ambulance driver for the Red Cross in Italy but was subsequently injured in an explosion. He convalesced in a hospital in Milan and started a flirting relationship with a nurse named Agnes. This brief romance, along with his experience as an ambulance driver in WWI, served as the source material for his third novel, *A Farewell to Arms*.

Back in Chicago, Ernest took a job writing for the *Toronto Star* and met his first wife, Hadley Richardson. The couple soon joined a growing number of literary expatriates - like F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, and Ezra Pound - who relocated to Paris after the war. They were a part of the Lost Generation. While in Paris, Ernest and Hadley traveled with their friends frequently to Spain to watch the bull fights, thus giving him source material for his first published novel, *The Sun Also Rises*. Ernest and Hadley had one son, but the couple did not last on account of Ernest's affair with Pauline Pfeiffer. She would become his second wife. His second work was a collection of short stories called *Men Without Women*.

Pauline soon became pregnant, so the couple returned to the United States and took up residence in Key West. Their home there is currently a museum, where fans of Hemingway's work can tour his rooms and see the six-toed cats, who are direct descendents of Ernest's cats.

Ernest loved to live a life full of risk and reward, so deep-sea fishing was a favorite hobby. (It was during this time when Ernest finished writing *A Farewell to Arms*.) Another favorite hobby he had, in keeping with "risk and reward", was big game hunting in Africa, long before this hobby was deemed cruel and unethical. He and Pauline traveled to Africa frequently to hunt, a hobby that offered plenty of material for future stories.

In the mid-1930s, Ernest worked as a correspondent during the Spanish Civil War, and it was while on that assignment he met who would become his third wife, Martha Gellhorn. His fourth work, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

By the 1940s, Ernest had divorced Pauline, married Martha, and relocated to Cuba. Both he and Martha worked as journalists during WWII in London and Normandy. In keeping with his previous behaviors, it would be during this assignment when he met who would be his fourth and final wife, Mary Welsh.

In the final phase of Hemingway's life, he struggled with mental illness, which had been growing in severity over the decades, along with a number of issues connected to what doctors now understand to be related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the ongoing struggles related to concussions. Despite this, he continued to write short stories and novels, including a memoir, *A Moveable Feast*. However, Ernest and Mary were in their home in Ketchum, Idaho, when, on July 2, 1961, just like his father, Hemingway died by suicide.

Sources:

American Magazine, [Ernest Hemingway was a brilliant writer and a terrible person. Discuss.](#)

Biography.com, [Ernest Hemingway - Books, Quotes & House](#)

Hemingway Home, [The Hemingway Home & Museum](#)

New York Times archive, [Hemingway Dead of Shotgun Wound: Wife Says He Was Cleaning Weapon](#)

Kathryn Stockett (1969-)

Kathryn Stockett was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, which served as the setting for her acclaimed novel, *The Help*, which was published in 2009. Stockett studied English and Creative Writing at the University of Alabama, and she used her own experiences to craft her first novel. Kathryn grew up with an African-American maid, Demetrie, who cared for her during her formative years. While she enjoyed her relationship with Demetrie, Kathryn was also troubled by the injustices she witnessed. She drafted *The Help* after graduating from college and went on to be rejected by more than 50 publishers. However, once the book was published in 2009, it spent more than 100 weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. A film was adapted from the book in 2011. Octavia Spencer, who played the role of Minny Jackson, won an Oscar for her performance.

Kathryn Stockett received some backlash from her novel, specifically from an African-American woman who was a nanny for the Stockett family. She knew that writing in the voices of women of different races than hers might be problematic. However, Kathryn Stockett felt that it was an important story to tell, particularly since it is set against the backdrop of real events, such as the Civil Rights Movement, the assassination of President Kennedy, and everyday life in the Deep South during the Jim Crow era.

Sources:

ABCNews.go.com, [Black Maid Sues, Says 'The Help' Is Humiliating](#)

FamousAuthors.org, [Kathryn Stockett | Biography, Books and Facts](#)

The Guardian: [Kathryn Stockett: 'I still think I'm going to get into trouble for tackling the issue of race in America'](#)