



evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

III/2-AJ4/1.8/De

## Ernest (Miller) Hemingway (1898 – 1961)

### Student's Worksheet

#### Task One

Now read the text about Hemingway's life:

#### HIS EARLY LIFE

Ernest Hemingway was one of the greatest American writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A novelist and short-story writer was born in Oak Park, Illinois, the second of six children. However, he spent much of his early life in the Great Lakes region, which provided the settings for his early stories. His family was strict and very religious. His father taught his children a love of nature and the outdoor life. Ernest caught his first fish at the age of three, and was given a shotgun for his twelfth birthday. His mother taught him a love of music and art. At school, he was good at English and wrote for the school newspaper. He graduated in 1917, but he didn't go to college.

After graduating he worked as a reporter for *The Kansas City Star*. He learned a lot but six months later he volunteered for service in World War I.

#### HEMINGWAY AND WAR

Hemingway was fascinated by war. He had wanted to become a soldier, but couldn't because he had poor eyesight. Instead, he was sent to Italy to serve with an ambulance unit as a driver. He was wounded there in 1918. After the war he worked as a journalist in Chicago and Toronto. However, he went to live in Paris soon, where he was encouraged in his work by the American writer Gertrude Stein. In the 1930's, he became a war correspondent in the Spanish Civil War and World War II. Many of his books were about war. His most successful book, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was written in 1940 and is about the Spanish Civil War. Another novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, is about the absurdity of war.

#### HIS PERSONAL LIFE

Hemingway's success in writing was not mirrored by similar success in his personal life. He married four times. His first wife divorced him in 1927. He immediately married again and moved to Key West, Florida, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and drinking, but he also suffered from depression. This wasn't helped when, in 1928, his father committed suicide. Hemingway's health was not good and he had many accidents. Two more marriages failed and he began to drink heavily. In 1954, he survived two plane crashes. In October of the same year he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, but he was too ill to receive it in person.



evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## HIS FINAL YEARS

His final years were taken up with health problems and alcohol. He began to lose his memory and he couldn't write any more. On Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1961, Hemingway killed himself with a shotgun, just as his father had done before him.

### Answer the questions about Hemingway's life:

1. Where and when was he born? When and how did he die?
2. Did he have a happy family life? How did his parents play a part in his career?
3. What do you think were the most important events in his early life?
4. When did he move to Paris? Who did he meet there?
5. How did war play a part in his life?
6. How many times was he married? Were his marriages happy?
7. What do these dates refer to? 1898 1917 1918 1927 1928 1940 1954 1961

### Task Two

Read the text and underline the most important information about the literary generation Hemingway belonged to:

#### *The Lost Generation*

The writers of the post-war generation, known as the 'Lost Generation', were affected, hurt and influenced by the war. Some of them had been directly involved in it, as, for instance, Hemingway and Dos Passos in the Ambulance Service. Their experiences resulted in a disillusionment which can be traced in the works of almost all of them. This period, however, was the most productive period in the American fiction.

The economic crisis of 1929 drove many writers to search for the roots of evil and the real causes of the crises in the society. This can be seen in the works of Steinbeck, Hemingway, Dos Passos and many others, the greatest critics of the conditions in the thirties.

*Where does the name of the generation come from?*

It was Gertrude Stein who once made her famous remark, "You are all a lost generation." when she wanted to characterize her friends-writers with their war experience and its consequences.

---

### Task Three

#### **Hemingway's works**

**Match the titles of Hemingway's works and their characteristics.**

1. [A Farewell to Arms \(1929\)](#)
2. [For Whom the Bell Tolls \(1940\)](#)
3. [The Old Man and the Sea \(1952\)](#)

- A. a novel; a psychological picture of war, during the Spanish Civil War Robert Jordan, the main character in the novel, a capable, conscientious American, comes to Spain to help in the fight against fascism; facing certain death in a guerrilla action, he realizes, what a beautiful place the world really is, and how much it is worth fighting for
- B. a short novel; Hemingway shows the eternal fight between nature and man; the old Cuban fisherman, who struggles to catch a big fish and finally loses it, does not, however give up; the story also shows Hemingway's cordial feelings toward common people as well as his positive attitude to the problems of Cuban people
- C. a novel; an epic description of World War I, Hemingway presents a charming and moving love story of an American lieutenant in the Italian Ambulance Service and an English nurse

---

### Task Four

#### *The Old Man and the Sea*

**Read the text:**

*The Old Man and the Sea, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize, is one of his later works. The short novel appeared in 1952 and shows the eternal fight between nature and man, which man must lose if he fights alone, but he shouldn't give up.*

*The following extract will give you an idea of Hemingway's style in describing Santiago's thoughts and feelings. The old man has just killed the third shark and talks to himself:*

"They must have taken a quarter of him\*) and of the best meat," he said aloud. "I wish it were a dream and that I had never hooked him. I'm sorry about it, fish. It makes everything wrong." He stopped and he did not want to look at the fish now.

"I shouldn't have gone out so far, fish," he said. "Neither for you nor for me. I'm sorry, fish."

Now, he said to himself. Look to the lashing on the knife and see if it has been cut. Then get your hand in order because there still is more to come.

"I wish I had a stone for the knife," the old man said. "I should have brought a stone." You should have brought many things, he thought. But you did not bring them, old man. Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.



evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost



GYMNÁZIUM  
PRACHATICE

## INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

What can I think of now? he thought. Nothing. I must think of nothing and wait for the next ones. I wish it had really been a dream, he thought. But who knows? It might have turned out well.

\*) i.e. of the fish

### Work with the extract and answer the questions:

1. According to the method of iceberg, what thought is 'under the water' or 'behind the text' or 'among the lines'?
2. Who is Santiago talking to? How do we call this type of speech? Why are Santiago's words sometimes between quotation marks and sometimes not?
3. How do you understand to Santiago's words: *"Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated"*?

---

### Evaluation:

How many correct answers have you had in the previous exercises?

100 – 80% .....	Excellent	👍
80 – 70% .....	Very good	😊
70 – 50% .....	Good	😐
50 – 30% .....	Average	😞
Less than 30% .....	Poor	💩

How much do you remember about Hemingway and his works?

Tick :

I remember a lot

I need some revision