

Ernest Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises

Courtney Crossley

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Brother Kip Hartvigsen

Brigham Young University – Idaho

Introduction:

Ernest Hemingway has always been my favorite author because of his writing style. It was Hemingway who created the Iceberg Theory. This theory presents the idea that the author only needs to supply ten percent of what is happening directly to the reader; the reader should then be able to infer what the other 90 percent is. Hemingway did this with his sparse writing. He left it up to the reader to dig deeper than what is shown on the surface in order to understand the characters and the conflicts. Hemingway also uses a very simple and unclogged language, yet all of his ideas were very profound.

The Sun Also Rises is considered to be one of Hemingway's finest pieces of work. It is patterned after his life in many ways from the setting to the plot and from the characters to the conflicts. Even though the book mirrored after his life, it can have many personal applications. One of these applications has always been what makes someone a part of the "Lost Generation"? And was the "Lost Generation" really so ruined from WW I that they were considered lost or were they really strong and merely pursuing higher interests that no one else had tried to reach? Are some of the characters lost, while others have a purpose, but they can't reach that meaning because the lost people are in the way?

Timeline of Ernest Hemingway:

1. Birth: July 21, 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois
2. In 1917 after graduating from high school he moved to Kansas City to work for the local newspaper called the *Star*, this is where he picked up his way of writing with short paragraphs, and un-flowered language.
3. In spring of 1918 he joined the Red Cross to be an ambulance driver in the Italian Army for WWI (He was rejected by the army due to a defective eye).
4. On July 8th he offered to deliver chocolate and cigarettes to the men on the front lines. An Austrian trench mortar shell hit and 227 pieces of Shrapnel cut into his legs. He carried a wounded soldier to safety before being hit by machine gun fire, once in the knee and another in the leg. He was the first American wounded in Italy and the first patient to be cared for in the American Red Cross hospital in Milan. There he fell in love with his nurse Agnes von Kurowsky. She would later fail to marry him and he would never forget it.
5. In 1920 he received a letter from his mother basically disowning him if he did not "Come into his manhood" (She wanted him to develop his own life). He moved in with a friend in Chicago and started writing for the *Cooperative Commonwealth* magazine.
6. While in Chicago he met Elizabeth Hadley Richardson, she was living in St. Louis and both were very attracted to each other (he was eight years older). After a year of correspondence they were married on September 3, 1921.
7. Due to letters of recommendation from Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein he signed a deal with the *Toronto Daily Star* to write articles and he and his wife moved to Paris in December of 1921.
8. His wife gave birth to their son John Hadley Nicanor Hemingway in October 1923.
9. In 1926 he began seeing Pauline Pfeiffer and later he divorced his wife. This was the upheaval for his novel *The Sun Also Rises*.
10. He married Miss Pauline Pfeiffer in May 1927 and they moved to Florida a year later.
11. 1930 was the year that things started falling out for Pauline and Ernest. They had had two sons Patrick (1928) and Gregory (1931). He was also pressured with the need to take care of his widowed mother and his younger siblings.
12. In 1936 he met Martha Gellhorn, a young blonde journalist who would later become his third wife. They were married in 1940 but their competitive and jealous natures put division between them.
13. In 1945 he divorced Martha and a short time later in 1946 he married her opposite Mary Welsh in 1946.
14. Won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953.
15. Won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954.
16. In 1959 during a tour in Spain Hemingway showed signs of severe mental illness while drunk. He was admitted to the Mayo Clinic and was treated for several illnesses and severe depression.
17. The couple moved back to Ketchum Idaho, a place that Hemingway had always loved. He tried committing suicide twice and he was readmitted to the Mayo Clinic and was treated again.
18. In 1961 while his wife slept upstairs Hemingway got out his shotgun, put it to his head and pulled the trigger.
19. Died: July 2, 1961 in Ketchum Idaho.

Works Published:

1. Published in 1923: *Three Stories and Ten Poems*.
2. Published in 1924: *in our time*
3. Published in 1925: *In Our Time: Stories*
4. Published in 1926: *The Torrents of Spring* and *The Sun Also Rises*.
5. Published in 1927: *Men without Women*.
6. Published in 1929: *A Farewell to Arms*
7. Published in 1932: *Death in the Afternoon*.
8. Published in 1933: *Winner take Nothing*.
9. Published in 1935: *Green Hills of Africa*.
10. Published in 1937: *To Have and Have Not*.
11. Published in 1938: *The Fifth Column, and the first Forty-nine Stories*.
12. Published in 1940: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.
13. Published in 1950: *Across the River and into the Trees*.
14. Published in 1952: *The Old Man and the Sea*.
15. Published (post death) in 1964: *A Moveable Feast*
16. Published (post death) in 1970: *Islands in the Stream*
17. Published (post death) in 1972: *The Nick Adams Stories*
18. Published (post death) in 1985: *The Dangerous Summer*
19. Published (post death) in 1986: *The Garden of Eden*
20. Published (post death) in 1987: *The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway*
21. Published (post death) in 1999: *True at First Light*.



Biographical Impressions:

There were two really important events in Ernest Hemingway's life that really influenced his work. The first of these events was during WWI while he was in the Italian Regiment with the Red Cross as an ambulance driver. The story of his time in Italy is very similar to what he wrote in his book *A Farewell to Arms*. In Hemingway's personal life he was injured by a trench mortar shell and was shot twice while rescuing a soldier. When he was being treated at the hospital he fell in love with one of his nurses. This is the basic plot line for his novel.

The second event was his 1923 trip to Spain followed by a second trip in 1924. This part of his life consisted of meeting new people constantly, fishing and visiting the bullfights. Hemingway was a huge fan of bullfighting and this is when he and his wife began having more serious trouble. This story line is soon became the plot for his novel *The Sun Also Rises*.

These two events are the ones that can be very closely related as almost biographical to Hemingway's life. They were very influential in determining the man he became and therefore the type of literature he presented throughout his life.



Websites:

<http://www.nobelprize.org>: This Website provides a brief biography and information on when and where Ernest Hemingway accepted the Nobel Prize. There is also information about the speeches and the presentation. This information can be useful with working out the biographical sketch as well as the creative response section.

<http://www.ehfop.org>: This website provides a timeline, quotes, a biography, and information about some of his works. This also has questions that are asked about Hemingway and there are links to other websites. This may be useful in the scholarly response and the creative response.

Critical Interpretation #1:

In *The Sun Also Rises: A Memory of War*, William Adair demonstrates that Hemingway's novel alludes to personal experiences and memories of World War I. Adair uses examples from *The Sun Also Rises* as well as a few references to other works of Hemingway to explain his ideas. Adair shows how Hemingway was present for events in history as well as had access to journals or biographies of other important soldiers in war that he could draw from. The symbolism of all the details in the plot represent the wounds that Jake received in war and what he did to cope with them. Adair explains that Jake (or Hemingway since his main characters typically represent himself) has a three step system. First he travels to a location that is "dangerous," next he is emotionally wounded by Brett, reminded of his wounds by an event, and/or physically wounded by someone else, and lastly he travels to a place of recuperation alone. Adair also explains the symbolism of climbing or walking up steep sides. There are many locations throughout all of Hemingway's books that the main character walks up a steep hill or mountain. The ascent up is dangerous and on the way back down it is as if Hemingway's characters are walking into the valley of death. Adair spends many pages giving detailed descriptions of all the war allusions in Hemingway's novel.

Word Count: 230

Critical Interpretation #2:

In *The Sun Also Rises: Time Uncertain*, Kermit Vanderbilt explains how Hemingway left critical errors in his novel *The Sun Also Rises*. The first of these examples is that of the calendar date. According to Vanderbilt, Hemingway has a tendency to give a date in the first section of any of his major works. Vanderbilt points out that the date, year and day of the week do not correspond correctly. The events of the bull fights in Spain are not in the correct order or on the right dates either. There are a couple of occasions that he repeats dates or it seems that his events are listed on wrong dates. Vanderbilt questions the reader about whether the dates or days of the week in the book really matter or if his words can be applied as historical criticism. Vanderbilt says that Hemingway did not take the time to plan out or remember the correct calendar dates when creating the book. Vanderbilt also indicates that this must be a lapse in memory or a flaw to his great ability to write because he started writing only forty eight days after he experienced it. Ultimately Vanderbilt left up the final decision up to the reader.

Word Count: 204

Critical Interpretation #3:

In *The Sun Also Rises: It's "Clear Financial Basis,"* Claire Sprague depicts the use of payment and money resources as defining a character. Sprague defines Brett's payment first. Her affairs are paid by her love for Jake as long as they don't talk about his impotence. Brett receives her money most of the time by selling herself to the men who fall in love with her. Georgette, the prostitute, receives literal payment by way of Jake's payment for dinner and her payment depending on who she leaves the party with. Many times Jake perceives payment as an exchange of values. Sprague gives the example of one night while drunk he reads a work by Turgeneff, although he cannot sleep because of the alcohol he has a great experience with his book. Bill Gordon also perceives payment as an exchange of values when he speaks of stuffed animals and betting on bull fights with Jake. Mike uses money itself to avoid payments. He has a very spending nature and is always bankrupt and needing help from others. Cohn's nature is money received through an inheritance just like Mike and Brett's. Cohn does however manage his finances better than Brett and Mike. Bill and Jake are both writers and work hard to earn their money. Romero is also one who earns his wages and pays all his bills. Sprague is sure to point out that Hemingway was not trying to point out that working is necessarily necessary to be a good character, those characters are better off. In the end Jake pays for the most and he also receives and loses the most at the same time.

Word Count: 275

Critical Interpretation #4:

In *Confession, Charity, and Community in The Sun Also Rises*, Doris A. Helbig expresses the themes of individual isolation of each of the main characters. This isolation is derived from trying to find a way to confess, find a community to belong to, and to find charity in their lives. Jake tends to be the confessor due to an underlying understanding that through religion and God somehow he has come to terms with his impotence. Jake also confesses to the reader through the first person dialogue in the novel that allows the reader to understand Jake and his confessions the easiest. Jake is also supposed to be the moral and religious standard for the community. This is seen as the travel to a more religious country, Spain, from a secular country, Paris, and through his biblical name of Jacob. Cohn is the main outsider due to the fact that many times he falls asleep and misses his opportunities to bond with Jake's other friends. There are also misunderstandings and occasions that it is put very bluntly in the novel that Cohn is not part of the group. Brett is the very center of the social community but still does not seem very happy with it. She and Jake could have something wonderful together but because she wants more physical than emotional they can't quite connect. Brett is temporarily kicked out from the community but she returns by confessing once again through Jake.

Word Count: 242

Principle Critics:*Jeffrey Meyers*

Jeffrey Meyers is member of the Royal Society of Literature and has focused his attention to analyzing the writing and the lives of several great authors including Hemingway. He has written a definitive biography of Hemingway and analyzed many of his great works. Several of his books have been translated into different languages. It is for this reason that Jeffrey Meyers is considered one of the principle critics concerning Hemingway.

Robert W. Lewis

Although Robert W. Lewis has not worked on a major biography of Ernest Hemingway he can still be considered a principle critic. Lewis has worked on many articles and books about different aspects of Hemingway's life. There are also many articles written by Robert Lewis about the major works of Hemingway.



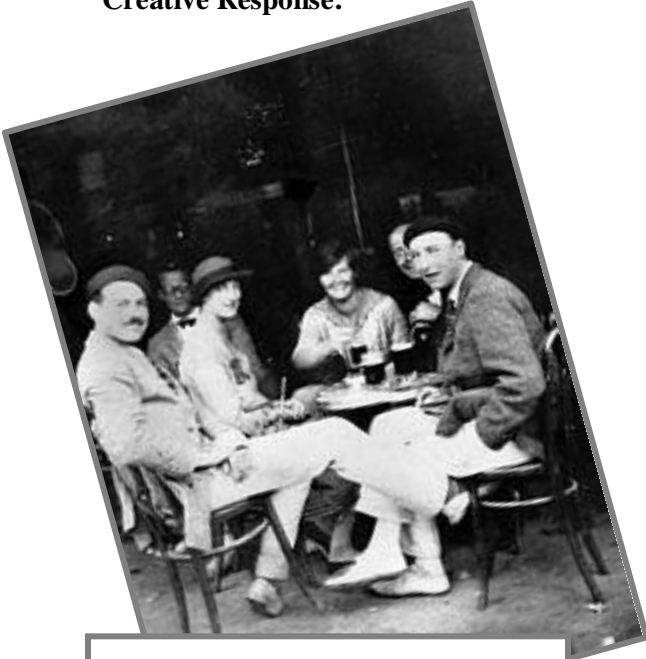
Scholarly Response:

By using the formalist approach of critical thinking, the text of Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* reinforces Hemingway's Iceberg Theory. The iceberg theory means that an author should only need to explain ten percent of what happens and the other ninety percent relies on the reader to discover. Those who use the formalist approach are typically referred to as new critics. Instead of analyzing a particular work using the historical or biographical sources available, new critics focus on the text alone. To a formalist the form, symbolism, point of view, tension, irony, fallacies and the speaker's voice must tie themselves together to create a text that is inseparable from its message without the help of outside resources.

Much relies on the point of view taken in *The Sun Also Rises* because of the limited first person perspective. In the formalist approach all the types of the point of view can have reliable or unreliable narrators. An unreliable narrator will not support the external or internal moral standard the author has, a reliable narrator will. Jake Barnes, the narrator in *The Sun Also Rises*, is a reliable character because he depicts the Hemingway Code. Once the credibility of Jake is revealed the words and thoughts he expresses can be considered the truth. The reliable first person perspective already limits the immediate knowledge given to the reader because the reader cannot see directly into the other major character's minds like they can in Jake's. This lack of immediate knowledge supports the iceberg theory. The reader must infer what the other characters feel and think in times when it is not revealed directly to Jake.

The structure or form in *The Sun Also Rises* helps the reader learn how to read between the lines to complete the iceberg theory. The form or the type of structure that is used is imperative to understanding the text. It is also important to understand that initially seeing no form is a type of form in itself. Hemingway seems to lack form in all his writings; this is his structure. Throughout Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*, the dialogue of the character lack explanations—meaning that Hemingway does not tell the reader who is speaking at each line, what they are doing while they speak, or in what tone of voice the speaker is speaking in. This forces the reader to read between the lines for a deeper understanding of the text. It is up to the reader to once again figure out for themselves what the other ninety percent of the unwritten text is and what it means to the story.

Creative Response:



Most of the book *The Sun Also Rises* is based after Hemingway's own life and his experience in Spain with his friends and family. This Photo is of Hemingway in a cafe in Pamplona, Spain.



In many of Hemingway's work the alcoholic beverage of Absinthe shows up and is always described as licorice tasting. This plays an important factor in deciding who is a reliable character and why?



In *The Sun Also Rises* a lot of the main action takes place around the annual Bullfighting in Spain.



Money is vital to living the characters way of life of pleasure while in France and Spain; most of the time either Bill or Jake end up paying the bills, because everyone else doesn't keep track of their money.

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