

TSSMTM
Creating VCE Success

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
“A Farewell to Arms”

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AUTHOR NOTES

Ernest Miller Hemingway (1899 – 1961) was an American journalist and writer. He grew up in Chicago. The family owned a summer home on Walloon Lake, where he enjoyed the outdoor life. These experiences instilled a life-long attachment to the outdoors and its activities, especially hunting and fishing.

He worked as a cub reporter for the Kansas City Star. He used the paper's style guide as the basis of his writing – short paragraphs and short sentences written in vigorous prose.

He volunteered as a Red Cross ambulance driver in Italy. He was wounded in both legs and spent six months recuperating in Milan. He was awarded the Italian Silver Medal of Bravery. There he met Agnes von Kerowsky. They planned to marry but she left him for an Italian officer.

He moved to Canada and worked for the Toronto Weekly Star. He then returned to America, still writing for the paper, where he met and married Hadley Richardson. The paper transferred him to Paris as a correspondent, where he wrote both news and travel articles. While there he associated with members of The Lost Generation [a group of noted American writers who preferred to live in Paris].

Hemingway published his first collection of short stories in 1925. He then travelled to Spain, a trip which inspired the novel *The Sun Also Rises*. In the meantime his marriage failed and he divorced Hadley in 1927 and married Pauline Pfeiffer. They returned to live in Key West in America where they had three children.

In 1929 he published *A Farewell to Arms*, whose success gave him financial independence. He travelled extensively in France and Spain, gathering ideas for *Death in the Afternoon*.

In 1933 he went to Africa. This inspired a travel book and two short stories. He then bought a boat and sailed the Caribbean. He wrote the novel *To Have and Have Not*.

He returned to Spain to report the Spanish Civil War. He divorced Pauline in 1940. He commenced a relationship with Martha Gellhorn, and they moved to Cuba and married. He wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. He travelled to China.

He travelled to Europe and reported the D-Day landings in 1944. He was at the Liberation of Paris. He was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery. He had divorced Martha and married Mary Welsh in 1945. He published two further works and then wrote the story *The Old Man and the Sea*, for which he received the Pulitzer Prize.

He then travelled in Africa, suffering two plane crashes and a bushfire, all causing serious injuries. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.

Leaving Cuba, he began writing *A Movable Feast* and returned to Spain for the bullfighting. He collected material for *The Dangerous Summer*.

He returned to America and entered a clinic for blood pressure and liver problems. After initial treatment he attempted suicide. He was released sometime after, and committed suicide with a rifle.

Many of Hemingway's works are now regarded as classics of American literature. His legacy is his writing style, that had great influence on the development of 20th Century fiction, and his personal reputation as an active man of the world.

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