

## Ernest Hemingway (A)

Ernest Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899, in Oak Park, Chicago. He was the first son in a family of six children. His home life was difficult as his mother Grace was very strict but he enjoyed a good relationship with his father Clarence. He loved the summer holidays, which he spent at his father's cabin in northern Michigan where his father taught him to hunt and fish; a passion that remained with him for the rest of his life. After graduating from high school Ernest worked briefly for the Kansas City Star newspaper as a copywriter before leaving for Italy to work as an ambulance driver for the American Red Cross. The United States had entered World War I and Ernest had tried to enlist in the army but was refused because of poor eyesight. The Red Cross was his only way in. Shortly before his nineteenth birthday he was wounded in his legs and taken to a hospital in Milan. While he was recovering in hospital, he fell in love with his nurse, Agnes von Kurowsky. He proposed to her but she turned him down and he returned to the United States alone.



## Ernest Hemingway (B)

In 1920 Ernest moved to Paris with his new wife Hadley Richardson to further his career in journalism. Life wasn't easy in Paris for the young couple and it got even harder when their son John was born in 1923. Ernest's writing was bringing in very little money. However, they met some very influential expatriate in Paris. Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound and F. Scott Fitzgerald all played an important part in Ernest's development as a writer. In 1926 he published his first major novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, a book that chronicled the lives of bohemian Americans living in post-World War I Europe. It was an immediate success, but his marriage to Hadley had reached its end. In 1928, shortly after his divorce, he married fashion writer Pauline Pfeiffer. In the same year his father committed suicide, Ernest's wife Pauline nearly died giving birth to their son Patrick and they left Paris and moved back to the United States, settling in Key West, Florida. In 1929 Ernest published his second major novel, *A Farewell To Arms*. He drew on his World War I experiences and his wartime romance in Italy.



## Ernest Hemingway (C)

Life was good in Key West and Ernest loved sailing and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. His son Gregory was born in 1931. In the mid 1930s he covered the Spanish Civil War for the North American Newspaper Alliance, and showed his clear opposition to Franco and fascism. These views were different from his wife's and he and Pauline divorced. In 1940 he published the famous *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, based on his experiences in Spain. In the same year he married Martha Gelhorn and relocated from Key West to Cuba. The marriage didn't last long and by late 1944 he had divorced Martha and married war correspondent Mary Welsh. In 1952 he published his final major work, *The Old Man and the Sea*, for which he won the 1954 Nobel Prize. In 1959, after Castro's Cuban revolution, the Hemingways left Cuba and settled in Idaho, U.S.A. However, a mixture of depression, ill health and alcohol abuse led Ernest to take his life in the same way that his own father had done 33 years earlier. On July 2, 1961, three weeks before his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Ernest Hemingway died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

## Ernest Hemingway

In groups of three (A, B and C) answer these questions about Ernest Hemingway.

1. How many brothers and sisters did Ernest Hemingway have?
2. Where did he spend his childhood summers?
3. What work did he do in Italy?
4. Who did he ask to marry him there?
5. Which of his books does he refer to their relationship in?
6. Which European city did he spend eight years in?
7. Who helped him to grow as a writer?
8. How many major works did he publish? Name them.
9. How old was he when his father died?
10. How many times did he marry?
11. How many children did he have?
12. Which European war did he cover as a journalist?
13. Where did he and his wife Martha live?
14. Which writing prize did he win and when did he win it?
15. How did Ernest Hemingway die?