Ernest Hemingway
(1899-1961)
• Born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1899 (a Chicago suburb)
• Father was Clarence Hemingway, an obstetrician
• Mother Grace Hall Hemingway, a music teacher
Childhood

• Some biographers claim Grace was domineering

• Make too much of the fact she dressed him in girls’ clothes as a young child?
Family

- Older sister Marcelline
- Younger sisters Ursula and Madelaine
- Carol and Leicester born later
Michigan

• Family bought a vacation cabin in Michigan
• Spent summers fishing, hunting, often with his father
• Fictionalized these portions of his life in *In Our Time*
• At age 18, went to work as a cub reporter on the Kansas City Star
• Learned rules for writing that he would use throughout his career
Kansas City Star rules for writing

• Below are excerpts from The Kansas City Star stylebook that Ernest Hemingway once credited with containing "the best rules I ever learned for the business of writing.

• "Use short sentences.
• Use short first paragraphs.
• Use vigorous English.
• Be positive, not negative. Never use old slang.
• Eliminate every superfluous word.
Kansas City Star rules for writing, cont.

• Be careful of the word also. It usually modifies the word it follows closest. "He, also, went" means "He, too, went." "He went also" means he went in addition to taking some other action.

• Be careful of the word "only." "He only had $10" means he alone was the possessor of such wealth; "He had only $10," means the ten was all the cash he possessed. In writing of animals, use the neuter gender except when you are writing of a pet that has a name.

• Try to preserve the atmosphere of the speech in your quotation. For instance, in quoting a child, do not let him say "Inadvertently, I picked up the stone and threw it."
Italy, 1918

- Unfit for military service because of a defective eye
- Joined the American Red Cross as an ambulance driver at age 18
- Sent to Milan, Italy in 1918
War Injury

- Injured by a mortar shell and machine gun fire while delivering chocolates and cigarettes to men at front
- Fictionalized in *A Farewell to Arms*
- Awarded silver medal for valor, though ambiguity about actual event
Agnes Von Kurowsky

- In hospital, met Agnes Von Kurowsky, a Red Cross nurse
- Love affair fictionalized in *A Farewell to Arms*
- Von Kurowsky broke off their relationship after Hemingway returned to Oak Park
Hadley

- Married Hadley Richardson in 1921; eight years his senior
- The young couple sailed for Paris in December of that year
- Famous incident of lost manuscripts
Expatriot Writers

- American writer Sherwood Anderson as literary mentor (until *Torrents of Spring*)
- Gave Hemingway an introduction letter to Gertrude Stein
Expatriot Years

- Hemingway became involved with a group of American expatriot writers living in Paris--F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, etc. Met James Joyce, other well-known modernist authors.
Greco-Turkish War

- Hemingway covered the Greco-Turkish War for the *Toronto Star* soon after his arrival in Paris.
- Incidents from the war make their way into *In Our Time*
In Our Time

- Published a collection in Paris called “Three Stories and Ten Poems” in 1923
- *in our time* published in Paris in 1924
- *In Our Time* (revised version of earlier work) published in U.S. in 1925
The Sun Also Rises

- *The Sun Also Rises*, Hemingway’s first novel, published in 1926 to much acclaim.
- At least partly autobiographical in nature
Pauline and Catholicism

- In 1927, Hemingway divorced Hadley and married his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer
- Converted to Catholicism
Late 20’s

- Publication of short story collection *Men Without Women* in 1927
- Hemingway and Pauline leave Paris in 1928, move to Key West, Florida
- Father’s suicide, also in 1928
A Farewell to Arms

- Pauline gives birth to second son Patrick, after hard labor (first son John, “Bumby” born to Hadley in 1923)
- Caesarean birth source material for A Farewell to Arms, published in 1929
Papa

- Key West are the “Papa” years
- Fishing, safaris, bull fights in Spain
- Growth of celebrity
Spanish Civil War

- In 1937, went to Spain to cover the Spanish Civil War
- Left the Catholic Church
- 1940 divorce from Pauline; marriage to war correspondent Martha Gelhorn
- Publication, also in 1940, of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
World War II

- During World War II, Hemingway’s boat *The Pilar*, involved in submarine hunting.
- Also worked as a war correspondent.
1940’s and 1950’s

- Divorced Martha Gelhorn after four years.
- Married war correspondent Mary Welsh in 1946
- Published *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1952
- Won Pulitzer Prize in 1953 and Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954
- Seriously injured in two successive plane crashes in Africa
Cuba

- Hemingway also owned a villa in Cuba during the 30’s, 40’s and 50’s where he wrote.
- Forced to sell in late-50’s when relations with Cuba become strained
Suicide

- Suffering from various illnesses (including alcoholism) and depression, shot himself to death in 1961 in Ketchum, Idaho.