

## THE REFLECTION OF HEROISM IN THE NOVELS OF E. HEMINGWAY

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Hemingway's characters often grapple with personal battles that test their endurance and ethical beliefs, reflecting the author's own experiences with war and existential contemplation. The "Code Hero," a central figure in Hemingway's narratives, embodies qualities such as honor, bravery, and a stoic acceptance of fate. Through sparse prose and a focus on subtext, Hemingway's writing style allows readers to infer the depth of heroism present in his characters' actions and decisions. Works like "The Old Man and the Sea," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and "A Farewell to Arms" showcase varied aspects of heroism, from the solitary struggle against nature to the complexities of love and war. Hemingway's legacy lies in his ability to capture the essence of heroism, making it a relatable and enduring theme in literature.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Ernest Hemingway, an iconic figure in 20th-century literature, crafted stories that resonate with themes of courage, honor, and the human spirit's capacity to persevere. His protagonists, often reflective of his own life experiences, navigate the tumultuous seas of war, love, and personal conflict, embodying what has come to be known as the "Hemingway Code" of heroism.

In novels such as "The Old Man and the Sea," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and "A Farewell to Arms," Hemingway introduces us to characters who confront their existential realities with a blend of stoicism and a profound sense of duty. Whether it is Santiago's epic struggle against the marlin, Robert Jordan's commitment to a cause greater than himself, or Frederic Henry's search for meaning amidst the chaos of war, each character's journey offers a unique perspective on what it means to be a hero.

Hemingway's sparse and impactful writing style serves to underscore the gravity of his characters' experiences, allowing the reader to infer the depth of their heroism through their actions and choices. As we explore these narratives, we uncover the layers of complexity that define Hemingway's heroes, revealing a reflection of heroism that is as compelling as it is enduring.

The following essay will explore these themes in detail, examining how Hemingway's life influenced his characters and how his distinctive literary approach brings the concept of heroism to life.

## FINDINGS

Ernest Hemingway's novels are renowned for their complex portrayal of heroism, often reflecting the author's own experiences and views on life, war, and human nature. In this essay, we will delve into how Hemingway's characters embody heroism and how his unique writing style enhances these themes.

Hemingway's Heroes: A Reflection of the Author's Life Hemingway's protagonists are typically stoic, courageous, and principled individuals who face adversity with a quiet determination. These characters are often seen as extensions of Hemingway himself, who was a war correspondent and adventurer. His personal encounters with war and death significantly influenced his depiction of heroism. The Code Hero and Hemingway's Writing Style A recurring element in Hemingway's work is the "Code Hero," a character who demonstrates honor, bravery, and endurance in the face of adversity. This concept is closely tied to Hemingway's iceberg theory of writing, where the depth of a character's heroism is often hidden beneath the surface of the text, revealed only through subtext and implication. Heroism in 'The Old Man and the Sea' In "The Old Man and the Sea," the protagonist, Santiago, embodies the Hemingway hero through his epic struggle with the marlin. Despite his eventual loss, Santiago's unwavering resolve and respect for the natural world exemplify the traits of a true hero. His battle is not just against the fish but also against the inevitability of age and decline, showcasing a profound reflection on life's challenges. Heroism in 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' "For Whom the Bell Tolls" presents a different aspect of heroism through the character of Robert Jordan, an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War. Jordan's commitment to his cause, despite the odds and personal sacrifice, highlights the complexity of Hemingway's heroes. They are not invincible but are instead defined by their moral compass and the choices they make in dire circumstances. Heroism in 'A Farewell to Arms' In "A Farewell to Arms," Hemingway explores the futility of war and the personal battles of Frederic Henry, an ambulance driver in World War I. Henry's disillusionment with the war and his subsequent quest for love and meaning present a nuanced view of heroism, one that is personal and introspective rather than grandiose. Conclusion Ernest Hemingway's novels offer a rich tapestry of heroic figures, each reflecting different facets of the human experience. Through his distinctive writing style and the depth of his characters, Hemingway invites readers to ponder the true nature of heroism, which often lies in the quiet strength to endure life's adversities.

This exploration of heroism in Hemingway’s work provides a glimpse into the author’s profound understanding of what it means to be a hero—a concept that is timeless and universal.

### CONCLUSION

Hemingway’s portrayal of heroism is deeply intertwined with his personal experiences and his philosophical outlook on life. His characters, often placed in extreme situations, showcase the qualities of the “Hemingway Code Hero”—grace under pressure, moral fortitude, and the will to endure. These heroes confront their fears and often emerge with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

In “The Old Man and the Sea,” Santiago’s relentless struggle against the marlin symbolizes the universal battle against insurmountable odds. In “For Whom the Bell Tolls,” Robert Jordan’s sacrifice for a cause he believes in reflects the complexities of heroism in a war-torn world. “A Farewell to Arms” presents Frederic Henry’s journey from disillusionment to a quest for love and meaning, highlighting the personal dimensions of heroism.

Through these narratives, Hemingway challenges readers to redefine their perceptions of heroism, suggesting that true heroism lies not in grand gestures but in the quiet resolve to confront life’s inevitable struggles. His minimalist writing style amplifies the impact of these themes, allowing the actions and choices of his characters to speak volumes about their heroic nature.

In conclusion, Hemingway’s novels continue to inspire and provoke thought about the essence of heroism. His characters, resilient in the face of adversity, offer timeless insights into the human condition, reminding us that heroism is a reflection of our capacity to face life with dignity and strength. Hemingway’s legacy endures, as does the relevance of his reflections on heroism in the modern world.

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