**Ernest Hemingway – A Comprehensive Profile**

**Early Life & Formative Years**

* **Born:** July 21, 1899, Oak Park, Illinois  
  **Died:** July 2, 1961, Ketchum, Idaho [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Raised in a well-educated, artistic household—father was a physician, mother a musician. Summers spent in northern Michigan instilled his lifelong love for hunting, fishing, and outdoorsmanship [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* In high school, he excelled academically and athletically, edited the school paper *Trapeze*, and adopted a minimalist writing style inspired by sports journalism [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[SparkNotes](https://www.sparknotes.com/author/ernest-hemingway/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Early Career & War & Journalism**

* After high school, Hemingway worked briefly at **The Kansas City Star**, where he adopted a terse, vigorous writing style—“short sentences... vigorous English” [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* In 1918, he volunteered as an ambulance driver for the Red Cross on the Italian front during WWI. He was seriously wounded and awarded the Italian Silver Medal of Bravery. His wartime love affair with nurse Agnes von Kurowsky later inspired *A Farewell to Arms* [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[SparkNotes](https://www.sparknotes.com/author/ernest-hemingway/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Encyclopedia.com](https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/literature-and-arts/american-literature-biographies/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Paris & the Lost Generation**

* Moved to Paris in 1921 as a foreign correspondent for the Toronto Star. Became part of Gertrude Stein’s literary circle, inspiring and mentoring Hemingway and his peers [Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/12/a-new-hemingway-documentary-peeks-behind-the-myth?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Emerged as a leading figure of the "Lost Generation"—a cohort of disillusioned expatriate writers post-WWI [Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sun_Also_Rises?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Major Works**

| **Title** | **Publication Year** | **Highlights** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *In Our Time* (short stories) | 1925 | Experimental fragments [Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ernest-hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography Online](https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/ernst-hemmingway.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| *The Sun Also Rises* | 1926 | A modernist classic capturing postwar disillusionment; introduces his "Iceberg Theory" of writing [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sun_Also_Rises?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| *A Farewell to Arms* | 1929 | War and romance; established him as a major literary voice [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Farewell_to_Arms?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| *For Whom the Bell Tolls* | 1940 | Based on his experiences covering the Spanish Civil War [Biography Online](https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/ernst-hemmingway.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| *The Old Man and the Sea* | 1952 | Pulitzer Prize (1953), central to his 1954 Nobel Prize recognition [Wikipedia+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_Man_and_the_Sea?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |

**Honors & Recognition**

* **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction**, 1953 *(The Old Man and the Sea)* [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_Man_and_the_Sea?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Nobel Prize in Literature**, 1954 – for narrative mastery and stylistic influence, notably his novella *The Old Man and the Sea* [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954_Nobel_Prize_in_Literature?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Later Years & Personal Struggles**

* Lived in Key West, Florida, and later Cuba; spent later years in Idaho. Survived multiple plane crashes in Africa in the early 1950s, resulting in chronic pain and poor health [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography Online](https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/ernst-hemmingway.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Suffered from depression, alcoholism, and physical ailments. Despite treatments including ECT, his mental health declined [TIME](https://time.com/3638572/hemingway-in-cuba-1952-portrait-of-a-legend-in-decline/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0002133/bio/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography Online](https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/ernst-hemmingway.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Tragically died by suicide on July 2, 1961, at his Idaho home [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[El País](https://elpais.com/ciencia/el-hacha-de-piedra/2025-06-26/ernest-hemingway-termino-con-su-vida-buscandole-seis-dedos-al-gato.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Legacy & Cultural Influence**

* Hemingway’s lean, powerful prose style revolutionized 20th-century literature and influenced countless writers [Wikipedia+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* He remains an enduring cultural icon of rugged adventurism blended with literary brilliance.
* **Ernest Hemingway House** in Key West, now a museum famed for its polydactyl (six-toed) cats, continues to attract visitors [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway_House?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[El País](https://elpais.com/ciencia/el-hacha-de-piedra/2025-06-26/ernest-hemingway-termino-con-su-vida-buscandole-seis-dedos-al-gato.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Hemingway Days**, an annual festival in Key West every July around his birthday, celebrates his life with look-alike contests, bookstore fairs, and fishing tournaments [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemingway_Days?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* The New Yorker’s obituary captured his literary legacy and persona: “guts as grace under pressure.” [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1961/07/15/comment-4745?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* A recent Ken Burns documentary peels back the myth, revealing his vulnerability, creative process, and inner turmoil [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/12/a-new-hemingway-documentary-peeks-behind-the-myth?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Summary Table**

| **Category** | **Highlights** |
| --- | --- |
| **Born / Died** | 1899–1961, United States |
| **Writing Style** | Minimalist, "Iceberg Theory" |
| **Major Works** | *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Old Man and the Sea* |
| **Awards** | Pulitzer (1953), Nobel (1954) |
| **Life Events** | War service, journalism, expatriation, plane accidents, personal turmoil |
| **Legacy** | Landmark in modern literature, Key West museum, annual festivals, enduring mythos |