

1. The "Indian problem" seen from Ernest Hemingway's perspective

Hemingway: Watch his biography here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kot9B7yPSW0>

And take notes of the most important things about him:

Basic biographical facts

Literary career including awards

His mental difficulties

https://archive.org/stream/IndianCampErnestHemingway_661/IndianCampByErnestHemingway_djvu.txt

1. Genre characteristics of the short story: The English Handbook chapter 6.1

Ernest Hemingway: Indian Camp

https://archive.org/stream/IndianCampErnestHemingway_661/IndianCampByErnestHemingway_djvu.txt

What's the time of day when Nick and the two men start their journey and when they head back? What's the symbolism of that?

Nick and his father, along with another man, set out before dawn to cross the lake to the Indian camp.

The morning departure could symbolize the beginning of a journey.

When they return from the Indian camp, it is mid-morning, and the sun is up.

The journey back in the daylight is symbolic of the knowledge and experience that Nick has gained during his time at the camp, after he had witnessed the pain and suffering of others, and this has changed him.

The sunlight could represent clarity and truth, as Nick has gained a deeper understanding of the world around him, as he becomes more aware of the world and his place in it.

Overall, the start and end of the journey that Nick and the two men start their journey and when they head back is could be symbolizing Nick's growth and knowledge gain.

How's Nick sat in the boat going out and coming back, and what does the difference in seating symbolise?

Nick is seated in the stern, facing the oarsman and it could symbolize awareness of the surroundings.

On the return journey, Nick is seated in the bow, facing forward. The change in seating position could represent growth and development in Nick as a character.

Initially, he starts as naive and innocent.

However, after witnessing the brutal childbirth and suicide of the Indian husband, Nick's view is forever changed.

The shift in seating position suggests that he is ready to face the challenges in the life ahead, is why he says "he will never die".

Why do you think the doctor did not bring this medical equipment?

The doctor's failure to bring the necessary medical equipment to a remote Indian camp could be due to his lack of empathy and the limited medical resources of the time. It is also worth considering the medical practices of the time, as medical technology and knowledge were not as advanced as they are today.

When Nick says "I see" it obviously means that he understands. But what does he really understand, do you think?

Overall, when Nick says "I see," he is expressing a moment of clarity and understanding, both about the realities of life and the importance of his father's work.

Why doesn't the woman's screaming matter?

In the early 1900s, women's pain during childbirth was often dismissed or ignored by medical professionals, because focus was on the baby's safe delivery. It could also be that the characters in the story do not care about the women's wellbeing. So it shows us how things were back in time and the women's screams matter because it could be a leading factor for the husband's suicide.

The pregnant woman bites Uncle George and he responds by calling her a “Damn squaw bitch”. One reaction can be said to be nature and one is nurture. But which is which and what does this difference in reaction tell us about Hemingway’s views on white Americans’ views on Indians? (Hint: your answer here will help you in your interpretation)

The pregnant woman's biting of Uncle George and his subsequent response of calling her a "Damn squaw bitch" highlights the interplay between nature and nurture in shaping human behavior. Hemingway's views on white Americans' views on Indians are complex and nuanced, reflecting the historical and cultural context in which the story is set.

“Nick’s curiosity had been gone for a long time.” Can you explain what this beautiful sentence means in plain English?

Nick has lost his sense of wonder and interest in the world.

Why did the Indian man in the upper bunk take his own life?

the Indian man in the upper bunk takes his own life because he is unable to bear the pain and trauma of his wife's difficult childbirth and subsequent death.

Hemingway lets one life begin and another life end in much the same manner in this story. What’s the significance of that?

Hemingway allows one life to begin and another life to end in much the same manner, highlighting the cyclical nature of life and death.

Why does the doctor want to his son to leave the room at this point? He had after all brought him along to show him a lesson in life.

Because the doctor deemed it was too much for Nick.

Nick asks if ladies (not Indian ladies, but in general) have such a hard time giving birth? Why is the question phrased in this way?

Because sometimes babies are born the wrong way.

Another beautiful sentence: “He couldn’t stand things, I guess.” Why is this said about a male character in the story and how does it tie in with what you learned about Hemingway’s male ideal?

Overall, the sentence "He couldn't stand things, I guess" reflects Hemingway's view of the ideal male character as strong and emotionally resilient, and suggests that the Indian man's suicide represents a kind of weakness or failure in this regard.

Where's Uncle George and what's he doing, do you think? Very strange to disappear now, isn't it???

Uncle George disappears during the difficult childbirth and Indian man's suicide, creating a sense of chaos and confusion. Hemingway may be suggesting that even the most experienced and capable individuals can be thrown off balance by unexpected events and overwhelming emotions.

In this story, we learn that being born is hard but dying is "pretty easy". Why does Hemingway choose to describe the two life events this way. Usually, it's the other way around, isn't it?

Hemingway views life as a struggle against adversity, while death is a release from the pain and suffering of life. He suggests that being born is hard while dying is easy, challenging our assumptions about life and death.

What are the circles in the water symbolic of?

The cycle of life and nature

How can Nick be quite sure that he'll never die?

Nick expresses the idea that he will never die by saying, "I'll never die." However, this statement should be understood as a reflection of his youthful innocence and sense of invincibility, rather than a literal belief in immortality. As Nick is exposed to the harsh realities of life and death, he realizes that his earlier statement was naïve and unrealistic.

Questions for interpretation

What's Hemingway trying to say about the relations between white and native Americans?

The story "Indian Camp" explores the complex relations between white and Native Americans. It portrays a white doctor and his son visiting an indigenous community to help a Native American woman in labor. There are moments of tension and conflict between the white characters and the Native American characters, such as Uncle George's racist outburst. However, there are also moments of connection and understanding between the white and Native American characters. Nick's father is respectful towards the Native Americans, even if his approach is sometimes insensitive. The Native American man who takes his own life seems to have a deep sense of sadness and despair that transcends cultural boundaries

This is an initiation (coming-of-age) story. Who comes of age and how can that process be seen in the story?

The coming-of-age process in "Indian Camp" is most evident in the character of Nick Adams, who is exposed to a variety of experiences that challenge his understanding of the world and his place in it. One of these experiences is the birth of a Native American baby, which is a powerful and transformative experience for Nick. Another is the suicide of the Native American man in the upper bunk, which forces Nick to confront the reality of mortality and the fragility of life. Through these experiences, Nick is able to mature and grow, gaining a deeper understanding of life, death, and the complexities of the human experience.

Mention a handful of elements in this story that makes it unmistakably Hemingway.

Sparse, minimalistic prose: Hemingway is known for his spare, economical writing style, and "Indian Camp" is no exception. The story is stripped down to its bare essentials, with no extraneous details or superfluous language.

Themes of masculinity and violence: Hemingway's work often explores themes of masculinity and violence, and "Indian Camp" is no exception. The story features a male-dominated world in which violence and death are a constant presence.

Symbolism: Hemingway frequently uses symbolic imagery in his writing, and "Indian Camp" is full of symbolic elements. For example, the river that Nick and his father cross to get to the camp represents the threshold between life and death, while the baby's birth symbolizes the cycle of life and death.

Hemingway's "Code": Hemingway had a set of principles that he called his "Code," which emphasized self-reliance, stoicism, and grace under pressure. These principles are evident in the character of Nick, who remains stoic and composed even in the face of traumatic events.

Hemingway's experience as a war correspondent: Hemingway's experience as a war correspondent during World War I and other conflicts is reflected in his writing, which often portrays the harsh realities of war and the fragility of human life. This is evident in "Indian Camp," which features graphic depictions of violence and death.

Overall, these elements combine to create a story that is unmistakably Hemingway in its style, themes, and imagery.

Trail of Tears - national, historical trail

- **Cherokee nation, 1828**
- They lived their traditional lifestyle, but respected the European lifestyle
- **1827**, they wrote a constitution and held a national election
- Had their own written alphabet
- First Indian printed newspaper
- The American people viewed their presence as a threat
- Jackson elected
- Laws that made sure the Cherokee lost all their rights
- Gold had been discovered on Cherokee land
- Since the word spread quickly, 4,000 white intruders were soon digging in Cherokee land
- They even arrested Cherokee people who dug after gold on their own land
- **1830, May**
- The Cherokee removal law went through
- **1832**
- The Cherokee is a distinct nation, and the citizens of Georgia can have no influence over them
- Lottery winners won the lands of Cherokee
- So the Cherokee were soon to be homeless on their own land
- **1836, spring**
- The Cherokee signed a petition against the treaty
- It was later taken to Congress, but was turned down
- The Cherokee was then forced to move
- **1838, May**
- The roundup began
- Soldiers captured Cherokee and forced them into river camps, prison camps
- Diseases spread, people died
- The Cherokee asked for permission to “remove” themselves, and they got permission
- **March 1939**, last detachment arrived at their new land
- 800 miles+; the Trail of Tears
- 2000 Cherokee’s died in the removal
- They began to reconstruct their own society again, to make sure their culture would survive
- Today one of the largest Indian races in USA