

UNIT 5 Progress & Conflict  
Early Twentieth Century 1910–1929

A STEIN WOOD  
FROEBEL  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL  
Home of the Space Generation

**Author Focus:**  
**ERNEST**  
**HEMINGWAY**



WITH  
JIM SOTO

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

Life can be hard. And when the going gets tough, only the tough get going.

Think of a time when you were in a difficult situation and could do nothing to improve or otherwise change things.

Did you complain?

Did you perhaps criticize or blame others?

What is most difficult about maintaining “grace under pressure”?

# POPULAR IN HIS TIME

Ernest Hemingway was an American author and journalist. His economical and understated style had a strong influence on 20th-century fiction, while his life of adventure and his public image influenced later generations. Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Many of his works are considered classics of American literature.



# THE MAN. THE MYTH. THE DISILLUSIONED.

A dramatic figure, many details of his own life have become nearly as well-known as has his work. His image was that of a stoic, macho, adventurous figure and he often drew heavily on his own experiences for his writing.

He was a leading figure of the so-called Lost Generation. Hemingway's fiction, especially his early work, was dominated by two types of characters. First were people altered by their World War I experiences - people who'd become detached and cynical, yet emotionally needy. The second were simple, plainspoken people of direct emotions, who found fulfillment or redemption in physical activities. Death and violence were constant themes in Hemingway's life and writing. He saw violence in both World Wars and the Spanish Civil War.





After high school, Hemingway became a reporter for The Kansas City Star before enlisting as an ambulance driver in the Italian Front during World War I where he was seriously wounded. These experiences formed the basis for his novel **A Farewell to Arms** (1929). In Paris he worked as a foreign journalist and was influenced by the **modernist** writers and artists of the 1920s' "Lost Generation" expatriate community. He then covered the Spanish Civil War as a journalist, which was the basis for his novel **For Whom the Bell Tolls** (1940). Hemingway accompanied the Allied troops as a journalist at the Normandy landings and the liberation of Paris.



He maintained residences in Key West, Florida (in the 1930s) and in Cuba (in the 1940s and 1950s). He almost died in 1954 after two plane crashes on successive days, with injuries leaving him in pain and ill health for the rest of his life. In 1959, he bought a house in Ketchum, Idaho, where, in 1961, he died by suicide.



## from **FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS**

Set during the Spanish Civil War, a 1937 conflict between a fascist group of rebels and the liberal government of Spain. The novel's hero, Robert Jordan, is a demolitions expert working with a local antifascist guerilla leader, Pablo. Jordan's strong sense of duty conflicts with Pablo's weariness of war, but this excerpt also reveals Jordan's inner conflict in this highly regarded war novel.





## from **THE SUN ALSO RISES**

The Sun Also Rises was Hemingway's first novel, published in 1926. Set in post-World War I Europe, the novel includes a cast of wealthy American and British expatriates living in Paris. At the center of this group is the novel's narrator, Jake Barnes, an American war journalist and who is in love with Brett, a beautiful and flirtatious English socialite.

Jake, Brett, and their expatriate group travel to Pamplona, Spain, for a weeklong fiesta, where Brett falls in love with a young bullfighter, Romero. This excerpt describes a bullfight that Jake attends with Brett in Pamplona.



# LITERARY ELEMENTS

## Plot

Is the sequence of events which involves the characters in conflict.

## Motivation

Is the force that moves a character to think, feel, or behave in a certain way.





Both novels are set in Spain, and their events take place only 15 years apart. Even so, they tell very different stories. As you read each excerpt, trace the series of events of the plot. In particular, identify the central conflict. Consider the roles of the characters in the novels. In *The Sun Also Rises*, what motivates Romero? In *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, what motivates Robert Jordan? Jot down details about each character's thoughts and actions that suggest his motivation.

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 351-367 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
  - **Plot and Motivation** - What is the central conflict in each novel excerpt? How is it developed? Is it resolved by the end of the excerpt? If not, predict how the conflict might be resolved in the rest of the novel.
  - What is the motivation for Romero in *The Sun Also Rises*? What is the motivation for Robert Jordan in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*? How is each character's motivation reflected in his thoughts and actions? Support your opinion with details from the text.





**Jim Soto © 2023**