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### The mask of nick Adams on Ernest Hemmingway's face

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#### ABSTRACT

When I was 16 I read an abstract about Ernest Hemingway's story life and his dead. It disappointed me because I didn't know why he should kill himself with a shotgun. I was encouraged by this question to find an answer to this question. Now I am 22 years old and being an English student is my key chance! Yes key chance because I've made a golden house and there is a door and you should be able to answer to all questions in English to pass the door and enter to the house .So knowing English proficiently is the key of entering. But when I decided to choose this article that why Ernest Hemingway killed himself as the same way that his father had done before him I thought that nobody can answer to this question and probably no one knew him more than himself and non of his friends are alive so what should I do ? After thinking a lot finally I found that he was a man that tried to have another Ernest in his stories like in the story of "Charles"! So who he was? I selected short stories & or excerpts by early 20 century American author, Ernest Hemingway, Found background information on Hemingway, provided access to print and electronic resources to collect data an critical comments on the Hemingway's short stories, and provide some time for the reading of the short stories. Finally I got that there is a character in his short stories that has lots of similarities with his characteristic and he was Nick Adams and in my opinion he is the second Ernest who is not dead and every day that Ernest's books are printing he is born and shows that Ernest is alive and it means that my key chance is in its exact position and with a little pressure the door will be opened and now I am trying ...But this is 1.4 of my complete issue.

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#### Introduction

##### Literature Review

Ernest Hemingway was the second of six children of Grace Hemingway, a Christian Scientist, and Clarence Edmonds Hemingway, a medical doctor who loved hunting and fishing (Frank Magill, 1982). Nick Adams is a young boy that is very naïve and still has many things to learn before he is considered a true man (2).in the story of "Indian Camp" Nick learns about life and death (2)."The Killers" shows him that death was not something that had to be at his fault in any way, shape or form (2)

And in "The End Of Something "Nick is very experienced when it comes to relationship with the other sex (2).Like Hemingway himself, Nick is the son of a doctor (3).Judging from the various idiosyncrasies, Nick Adams seems to possess a personality almost as enigmatic as Hemingway's(Timeless Hemingway, 1998).

##### Methodology

This study has been done by using digital library books, papers about Ernest Hemingways life and I selected short stories & or excerpts by early 20 century American author, Ernest Hemingway, Found background information on Hemingway, provided access to print and electronic resources to collect data an critical comments on the Hemingway's short stories, and provide some time for the reading of the short stories.

##### Findings and Discussion

##### Ernest Hemingway's life:

Part (a) His early life: Ernest Hemingway was the second of six children of Grace Hemingway, a Christian Scientist, and Clarence Edmonds Hemingway, a medical doctor

who loved hunting and fishing ( Frank Magill, 1982). His family was strict and very religious. His father taught his children a love of nature and the outdoor life. Ernest caught his first fish at the age of three, and was given a shotgun for his twelfth birthday. His mother taught him a love of music and art. At school, he was good at English and wrote for the school newspaper. He graduated in 1917, but he didn't go to college. He went to Kansas City and worked as a journalist for the Star newspaper. He learned a lot, but left after only six months to go to war (American Headway 3, Oxford in university pres2003).

Part (b) Hemingway and war: Ernest Hemingway was fascinated by war. He had wanted to become a soldier, but couldn't because he had poor eyesight. Instead, in the fires world war, he became an ambulance driver and was sent to Italy, where he was encouraged in his work by the American writer Gertrude stein. In the 1930s, he became a war correspondent in the Spanish civil war and world wars II. Many of his books were about war. His most successful book, for which the bell tolls, was written in 1940 and is about the Spanish civil war. Another novel, a farewell to arms, is about the futility of war (American Headway 3, Oxford in university pres2003).

Part(c) His personal life: Hemingway's success in writing was not mirrored by similar success in his personal life. He married four times. His first wife divorced him in 1927. He immediately married again and moved to Key west, Florida, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and drinking, but he also suffered from depression. This wasn't helped when, in 1928, his father committed suicide. Hemingway's health was not good and he had many accidents. Two more marriages failed and he began

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to drink heavily. In 1954, he had two plane crashes. In October of the same year he was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature, but he was too sick to receive it in person (American Headway 3, Oxford in university pres2003).

Part (d) his final years: His final years were taken up with health problems and alcohol. He began to lose his memory and he couldn't write anymore. On Sunday, July 2, 1961, Hemingway killed himself with a shotgun, just as his father had done before him (American Headway 3, Oxford in university pres2003).

The main character of Hemingway's short stories Nick Adams: Hemingway readers know Nick from Hemingway's short story collection *In Our Time*, which introduces Nick as a vulnerable teenager thrust into a world of violence and meanness. Nick is a typical Hemingway hero who is learning "the code." Hemingway's "code hero" is someone who is honorable, courageous, and adventurous and who exhibits grace under pressure. He distinguishes himself from others by his ability to endure and to face death with dignity. Such traits define the code hero's manhood. In short, Nick is learning the code of how to be a man, according to Hemingway's idea of what constitutes manhood (5).

In the short stories by Ernest Hemingway a young boy by the name of Nick Adams goes through his life's tribulations slowly learning and experiencing new things. Nick Adams is a young boy that is very naïve and still has many things to learn before he is considered a true man. Contained in these stories are the experiences that Nick goes through, helping him understand many topics and ideas such as: life, death, and relations (2).

Let's give you some information about Nick Adams stories such as "Indian Camp," "The End Of Something," and "The 3 Day Blow" to know more about his experiences. In the story of "Indian Camp" Nick has his first experience. In the "Indian Camp" a young Indian woman is giving birth to a child and Nick's dad is dedicated to performing as a doctor by helping the woman with her birth. Nick decides to go along with his father. The birth was a very brutal process and the husband of the woman could not bear the pain he was feeling for his wife and decided to cut his throat. And Nick learns about life and death. But another experience of death that Nick encounters is in the story of "The Killers" which happens in the café and two thugs want to kill a man by the name of Ole Anderson, a Swedish man and Nick was soon part of a crime. This story shows him that death was not something that had to be at his fault in any way, shape or form. It was just something that everyone had to deal with in their everyday lives, and even at all costs could not be avoided.

Nick is very experienced when it comes to relationship with the other sex. He begins to understand this topic in the story of "The End Of Something". In this story Nick takes a girl by the name of Marjorie fishing by the shore of the bay. As they sit and watch the moon rise Nick began to get frustrated with Marjorie and how she just had to know everything. At this time Nick decided to break the relationship with Marjorie and not to continue between them and Nick should experience how to lose a relationship. But his friend whose name was Bill helps him to forget Marjorie and Nick learns that nothing is more important than a good friend that he can ask questions and tell anything, someone that is there to support him in times of trouble. He now can better understand life, death, and relationships to a much fuller extent.

The relationship between Nick Adams life and Hemingway's life: Nick Adams is the name that Hemingway gave to the fictional persona, largely autobiographical, whom he often wrote about. Like Hemingway himself, Nick is the son of a doctor ("The Indian Camp"; "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife"); he relishes fishing and hunting in the northern peninsula of Michigan ("Big Two-Hearted River"). He romances a young girl named Marjorie, a summer waitress at a summer resort ("The End of Something"; "The Three-Day Blow"). He goes abroad during World War I and serves as an American Red Cross ambulance driver; he also is a courier, carrying chocolates and cigarettes to Italian soldiers on the Austro-Italian battlefield. And, like Hemingway, Nick suffers a knee wound ("In Another Country"). Unlike Hemingway, however, Nick suffered post-traumatic shock; his mind periodically seems to come unhinged ("A Way You'll Never Be").

"IN THE YOUNG HEMINGWAY" Michael Reynolds quotes from a 1913 newspaper account of a speech by Dr. Clarence Hemingway on "The Conservation of Youth," in which Ernest Hemingway's father advises each young man to "select his own ancestors" (1). Central to Reynolds's account of the young Hemingway is the fact that Ernest lacked a male ancestor at home with whom to identify: "After his twelfth birthday, Ernest spent less and less time with his father on the lake or in the hunting fields—a loss he could not understand. As his father became increasingly withdrawn, demanding and sometimes morose, Ernest tried ever harder to gain his affection"(2). Thus, Reynolds argues that in his "published fiction Hemingway tried afterwards to recapture the man, his father, as he was in the boy's early years" (3). I suggest that the Nick Adams stories not only chronicle Hemingway's attempt to recapture the father of his boyhood years, but also young Hemingway's growing disillusionment with his increasingly estranged and absent father. Following his father's advice, Hemingway attempts to "select his own ancestors" in creating his earliest fictional self Nick Adams. Tracing the development of this fictional self through the Nick Adams stories, I argue that the Ojibwa, culture Hemingway knew as a youth provides a "tribal" legacy for the characters, themes, characteristic writing style, and narrative structures of these stories.(6)

One rainy autumn afternoon, Nick hikes up in the north Michigan woods to a cabin to meet his friend Bill. Talking and drinking, they finally discuss Nick's breaking off his romantic relationship with Marjorie. Bill dogmatically insists that Nick did the right thing. A woman, he insists, will ruin a man; a married man is "done for." Nick listens but realizes that he is still free to flirt with the idea of finding the right woman to marry eventually. He is far from being converted to Bill's almost misogynistic view of women (4).

In all, Hemingway wrote at least a dozen stories that center around Nick Adams, and in 1972, Scribner's published a volume entitled *The Nick Adams Stories*(3).

In each of the Nick Adams stories, Nick witnesses — or is a part of — some traumatic event, and Hemingway reveals Nick's reaction to that event(3). For example, in "Indian Camp," Hemingway focuses on Nick's reaction to a young American Indian man's slitting his throat from ear to ear after listening to his young wife scream for two days and then scream even more during Dr. Adams' cesarean that delivers a baby boy. In "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," Nick's blind hero-worship of his father is contrasted with our knowledge that Nick's father has a

fraudulent aspect to his character. "The End of Something" and "The Three-Day Blow" revolve around Nick's breaking off with his girlfriend, Marjorie. Nick is not entirely happy with himself afterward; Nick's friend Bill prodded him to break up with her, and, finally, Nick secretly rejoices that he need not be as thoroughly against marriage as Bill is: Romance and women can still be tantalizing; they need not be shackles on a man's future success.

It has long been a misconception among the most sagacious of critics that the Hemingway hero is solely a representation of the author himself. Philip Young's versatile description of Nick Adams helps to explain the bewilderment of those who've attempted to decipher the autobiographical origins of the Hemingway hero:

Here is a sensitive, humorless, honest, rather passive male. He is the outdoor man, who revels in the life of the senses, loves to hunt and fish and takes pride in his knowledge of how to do such things. He is virile even as an adolescent and very conscious of his nerve; maturity has forced a reckoning with his nerves as well. Once grown, he is a man who knows his way around, but he is superstitious, too, and is developing a complex ritual whereby thinking can be stopped, the evil spirits placated and warded off.

The assorted contradictions should be immediately evident. Nick is a "passive male" but "loves to hunt and fish." He is "sensitive" but also "virile even as an adolescent." He "takes pride in his knowledge of how to do things" (things not limited

to just hunting and fishing) but is "superstitious" as a grown man. Though Nick is "very conscious of his nerve," he continually tries to develop a "complex ritual whereby thinking can be stopped, the evil spirits placated and warded off."

#### **Conclusion**

Judging from the various idiosyncrasies, Nick Adams seems to possess a personality almost as enigmatic as Hemingway's. Joseph Flora has stated, "In the Nick Adams stories Hemingway defined key aspects of his personality more revealingly than he ever did in direct statements about his own life. (7)

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