

Hemingway and Fitzgerald

Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald: two 20th century writers whose names have become legend, perhaps as much for their lives as for their writing.

In fact, it can be difficult to know which came first, the lives or the fiction. Colum McCann, writing about his own novels, says: "Sometimes it seems to me that we are writing our lives in advance, but at other times we can only ever look back." That statement rings true for both Fitzgerald and Hemingway.

Both authors were in a real sense self-created, and both were conscious of creating the myth of their lives through their writing and through the way they lived. As Matthew Bruccoli says, the two men "loved to dramatize themselves—to act out their own mythologies." Fitzgerald, the creator of the "Jazz Age," living a wild extravagant life; Hemingway, the proponent of "courage under pressure," crafting his own macho image.

The story of their friendship, one of the most complicated in literary history, is inextricable from the story of either man's individual life. To me it is bitterly ironic that Scott, the first to be successful, who first promoted Hemingway, ended his lifetime with a reputation as a failed genius, while Ernest's reputation as a literary giant only grew. But since their deaths, both views have altered somewhat.

In this class, we will look at both the lives and works of each writer, and at the effect they had on each other's lives. We will read one novel and a collection of short stories by both men.

Please have these three books, all of which are available on Amazon, both new and used:

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway (\$13.45 new)

The Sun Also Rises by Hemingway (\$11.82 new)

The Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald (any edition, but preferably not the one with a cover featuring Leonardo di Caprio!)

Fitzgerald stories will be duplicated, at a cost to you of \$5.00 (payment made during registration process).

**FOR THE FIRST CLASS, PLEASE READ HEMINGWAY'S STORIES
"A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE" AND "THE KILLERS."**

LEADER: Betty Lies has taught every age from elementary school to adults, and loves it all!

THURSDAYS: 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks: February 27 through April 16

LOCATION: Witherspoon Hall Municipal Building, Maximum 15 seats