



# The Hemingway Hero

Honors English 11

Miss Michaels



# Characteristics of the Hemingway Hero



Ernest Hemingway

- ❖ Young and male
- ❖ Physically or emotionally wounded
- ❖ Alienated from traditional beliefs, values, and relationships; a loner
- ❖ Believes world is filled with tragedy and irony (pain, loss, violence, death)
- ❖ Forced into heroic roles, does not volunteer, does not see self as heroic

# Characteristics, continued



- ❖ Master of sport, soldiering, and traditional male pursuits; finds beauty and solace in sport and its rituals; finds reward in having done a job well
- ❖ Ultimate goal: show “grace under pressure,” face danger or death without cracking, complete the job capably
- ❖ Common metaphors symbolizing the hero’s quest: fishing, hunting, bullfighting

# Iceberg Theory



- ❖ Hemingway hero is best understood by analyzing his actions, not his thoughts or dialogue
- ❖ “A writer may omit things that he knows, and the reader will have a feeling of those things, as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only 1/8 of it being above water.” Hemingway.

# Influence

- ❖ Influenced the “anti-hero” character of fiction and film
- ❖ Accepted as reality, a world of violence, moral decay, and futility
- ❖ Examples: Clint Eastwood western anti-hero and Bruce Willis action hero

