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## **INTERESTING FACTS FROM THE LIFE OF AN OUTSTANDING WRITER**

**Ernest Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899 - an American writer, journalist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and winner of the Pulitzer Prize. He gained popularity not only thanks to his works, but also thanks to an active and adventurous life.**

The legendary writer Ernest Hemingway possessed towering talents and formidable faults. The chapters of his life overflow with historical experiences that seem unbelievable but are true. Other stories sound authentic but are bogus.

### **There is a selection of some interesting facts about Hemingway.**

1. Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Illinois. His family was well-off, his father worked as a doctor, and his mother was engaged in raising children. The writer got his name from his grandfather Ernest - mother's father. However, he didn't like it, and he associated it with the naive, sometimes silly hero of Oscar Wilde's comedy play "How important it is to be serious".

2. Hemingway's father tried to teach his son to love nature from an early age. For the first time, Ernest went fishing with his father when he was three years old, and by eight he knew the names of all the animals and plants that could be found in the United States. An expert fisherman, he set a world record in 1938 when he caught seven marlins in one day. *Perhaps I should not have been a fisherman, he thought. But that was the thing that I was born for.*

3. Ernest's mother - Grace - was quite stubborn, sometimes even in strange things. She really wanted a second daughter, but a boy was born. Until Ernest was four years old, he wore a dress and long hair. Later, Grace wanted to make Ernest a musician, and forced him to play the double bass, for which she even took him out of school for a year. Nothing came of the mother's plans, Hemingway himself admitted that he played this instrument worse than anyone in the world.

4. At the age of 12, Hemingway received a single-shot rifle as a gift from his grandfather. Since then, hunting has become his main passion.

5. During his studies, Hemingway published several stories in the school magazine, and then began to write reports about sports competitions, as well as satirical notes about the everyday life of the wealthy suburb where he lived. Even then, Ernest decided to connect his life with literature.

6. After the start of the First World War, Hemingway wanted to go to the front as a volunteer, but due to problems with his left eye, he was rejected by the draft board. Health problems did not stop the writer, and he signed up as a volunteer driver for the Red Cross, going to Italy. There he helped to search and rescue the wounded, for which he received the Italian medal "For bravery".

7. During his lifetime, Hemingway published 7 novels, 6 collections of short stories and 2 non-fiction books. Many of them are considered classics of American

literature. He wrote most of his works in the bedroom – part of this room was given over to the workspace.

*Hemingway believed that it is better to work standing. He spent many hours on his feet, periodically shifting his weight from one to the other. At the same time, he could write off up to seven pencils per day of work.*

8. The writer was married four times, and in addition, he had other love affairs in his life.

9. Ernest Hemingway adored cats. In 1935, the writer's friend Captain Dexter gave him an unusual kitten. There were six toes on each of his paws. The baby was named Snowball (Snowball), and since then the cats in Hemingway's house have not been translated. By the end of the Second World War, more than 20 cats lived in the writer's house, half of which were six-toed cats.

Snowman's descendants still live in his house-museum in the USA. There are more than 40 of them, and most of them also have six toes. They are even recognized as a national treasure of the USA.

10. In 1960, Hemingway was treated at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester (Minnesota) with a diagnosis of depression and a serious mental disorder. After returning from the hospital, Hemingway shortened his life by shooting himself in the forehead with a hunting rifle given to him by his grandfather. It took place on July 2, 1961 at his own home in Ketchum, Idaho, USA.

11. Fifty years after Hemingway's death, a Freedom of Information Act request was made to the FBI about the writer. The answer was: there was surveillance, there were bugs, there was eavesdropping. They listened to him, in particular, in the psychiatric clinic, from where he called to report this.

13. He dedicated a book to each of his four wives. *If two people love each other there can be no happy end to it.* After being jilted by his first love, Hemingway seemed to develop a habit of leaving wives before they had a chance to leave him. And he moved on quickly, marrying again within a year of each divorce. **The Sun Also Rises** honored his first wife, Hadley. **Death in the Afternoon** was dedicated to second wife, Pauline. **For Whom the Bell Tolls** was for number three, Martha. And **Across the River and Into the Trees** went "To Mary with Love."

14. He rewrote the last page of **A Farewell to Arms**, about his experiences in World War I, 39 times. *All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.*

15. He decorated his house with a urinal from his favorite bar. *I drink to make other people more interesting.*

**Here are 10 of the many facts and fictions explored in “Mythbusting Hemingway”**

**1. True – The “great white hunter” once bagged a toilet.** When the husband of Hemingway’s eventual fourth wife (Mary Welsh) dragged out their divorce, Ernest flew into a rage, tossed the man’s photo in a toilet and shot it six times with a machine pistol, destroying the porcelain bowl. The crime scene was a room at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, and the room flooded. No word if he was welcomed back, or if pieces of the privy ended up on Hemingway’s trophy wall.

**2. False – He said Oak Park was a place of “wide lawns and narrow minds.”** This line has even appeared in biographies, but the quote has never been sourced. “There’s no textual basis for that at all,” says Elder. Any issues Hemingway had with his hometown were likely problems with his conservative family, who bemoaned the

“filth” he was writing. (He did make a rare local reference in an early short story, in which a war veteran contracts gonorrhoea from an encounter in a taxi cab in Lincoln Park.)

3. **True – Hemingway accidentally shot himself... while fishing.** In 1935, while using a gaffing stick to hook a shark in the Gulf Stream, the author of “The Old Man and the Sea” discharged his .22 pistol. The bullet ricocheted and went through both of his calves. Hemingway wrote about the experience in *Esquire* magazine saying “there was absolutely no pain at all.” Other reports say he was “humiliated by the accident.” Years later, he wrote admiringly of Santiago, the protagonist of “The Old Man and the Sea,” who “know[s] how to suffer like a man.”

4. **True – He survived back-to-back plane crashes.** Living a life of adventure, Hemingway was “a magnet for physical harm.” On safari in Uganda, the small airplane he was traveling in struck a telegraph wire strung across a gorge. The plane crash-landed. Hemingway was hurt, but he flagged down another plane to carry his party to safety. The second plane caught fire on takeoff and crashed, injuring Hemingway severely. He later celebrated his escape (which brought him his fourth concussion in 10 years) with a trip to the bar.

5. **True – He fought Orson Welles (and others).** Hemingway was a fighter as well as a writer, but his war with Orson Welles was more of a skirmish. A few punches were thrown in a movie theater while a film about the Spanish Civil War played onscreen. The lights went up, they laughed and shared a bottle of whiskey. Hemingway also sparred with former heavyweight champ Gene Tunney, and he flattened the poet Wallace Stevens, who had unwisely struck him first. Alcohol was involved in all three occasions. Ernest Hemingway pictured in 1935.

6. **Partly true – Movie star Ava Gardner skinny-dipped in Hemingway’s pool, and he threatened to fire anyone who drained the water.** The actress had already appeared in three film adaptations of Hemingway’s works when she met the author and became “good chums,” as she described them. The story that Gardner swam naked in the Hemingway pool at his home in Cuba is well-sourced, but he never he warned his staff to keep the pool water – an amusing, if somewhat creepy, anecdote.

7. **False – The author wrote a short story using just six words.** The story in its entirety: “For Sale: Baby Shoes, Never Worn.” He was a master of economic prose, but there’s no evidence he wrote this tweet-sized tale. The episode was mentioned in a 1989 one-man play about Hemingway and later repeated in a book by a literary agent. “It’s a fabrication,” says Elder. “Some of his most famous quotes are just misattributed. There’s one about people being broken, and that’s where the light gets in. That’s Leonard Cohen, that’s not Ernest Hemingway.”

8. **True – Hemingway was gender fluid.** It’s well-established that this manly man was dressed as a girl by his mother when he was a tot, a common practice in the Victorian era. Much later, according to Elder, “He engaged in gender-swapping, especially with his fourth wife, Mary, and it was part of his identity. He’d grow his hair long, he often liked to be called Catherine. It was part of his private life not his public persona but it does, I think, explain his hyper-masculinity.” Released 25 years after his death, Hemingway’s novel “The Garden of Eden” tells the story of a writer and his wife, Catherine, who explore gender roles.

9. **False – Hemingway was a warmonger.** He lived a life of danger and violence, but he was realistic about warfare, having experienced it as an ambulance driver in World War I and as a journalist in the Spanish Civil War and World War II. His protagonist in “A Farewell to Arms” offers a chilling reflection on war: “The things that were glorious had no glory, and the sacrifices were like the stockyards in Chicago if nothing was done with the meat except to bury it.” He was also an occasional liar, claiming to have killed 122 men during World War II. A biographer later wrote that the number of Hemingway’s wartime victims “increased in direct ratio to his drinking.”

10. **True – Hemingway died by suicide.** This may be common knowledge now, but Hemingway’s death in 1961 was widely reported as an accident that occurred while he cleaned a shotgun. The nature of his death would remain unclear for five years until the publication of A.E. Hochner’s biography “Papa Hemingway.” Robert K. Elder: “We did a deep, forensic exploration, a CSI of Hemingway’s death.” The suicide has been called the most famous suicide in American history, and “Mythbusting Hemingway” exhumes the gory details of how he ended his life.

Hemingway’s illustrious life sparked legends. Some falsehoods were spread by his editor. Others, by the author’s own hyperbole.

“What happens when you become larger-than-life, when your myth becomes larger than you, when you lose control of that legend?” asks Elder.

“There was an embrace of this mythic, hyper-masculine author but at a certain point after his death, it just went out of control,” he said. “There were so many things that Hemingway was attributed to have said or done, and the sad part is that obscures the many amazing things he did do.”

#### Список використаних джерел

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