

AP Language
Summer Reading Guide
A Farewell to Arms

Published in 1929, *A Farewell to Arms* is typical of Hemingway's stories of war and its impact on the lives of individuals. Set on the Italian front during World War I, the story centers on the relationship of an American ambulance driver and an English nurse. Hemingway's **minimalist style** makes this a classic of the period, a time marked by **existential angst** and nostalgia for the past. In fact, despite having been a journalist at one time, Hemingway is best remembered for what he omits from a story.

Hemingway's "new theory" of writing fiction in the early 1920s: "You could omit anything if you knew that you omitted, and the omitted part would strengthen the story and make people feel something more than they understood. . . ."

You are required to engage in a close reading of your summer reading novel, *A Farewell to Arms*. While attending to the annotations in your close reading, you may lay the groundwork for our AP Language and Composition study by concentrating on the **effect of the style, tone, and irony** in the story as **they augment the larger meaning of the work**. Pay attention in particular to the **narrative voice** conveyed through **choices of diction and syntax, the use (or omission) of description, passages of dialogue, and other literary techniques** that may help you to **analyze the intended purpose and target audience**.

Note: Because annotation is subjective, you may find that your peers have marked or that your teacher is citing words, phrases, or entire passages that you did not. That is okay. You will likely note similar overarching ideas.