

Ernest Hemingway and World War I

(Arkansas History H.7.AH.7-8.1 and H.7.AH.7-8.10).

Instructions: Read the following passage and then answer the five questions below.

While visiting his wife's family in Piggott, Arkansas, in 1928, American author Ernest Hemingway worked on his novel *A Farewell to Arms*, which would become one of the most famous novels about World War I. Some of the plot of the novel is drawn from Hemingway's own experiences in World War I. He was injured while serving in the Red Cross on the Italian front. While delivering chocolate and other treats to the soldiers on the front line, he was injured by mortar fire. He spent the next six months recovering at a hospital in Milan. While in the hospital, he fell in love with his nurse Agnes von Kurowsky. He eventually asked her to marry him, but she said no.

In the novel, the protagonist is an American named Frederick Henry, who is serving as an ambulance driver in the Italian army. He is also injured by mortar fire and recovers in a hospital in Milan. He falls in love with his nurse Catherine Barkley. This is where the similarities stop. Frederick and Catherine decide to marry and escape the war by running to Switzerland, a neutral country. They live happily for a while, but Catherine eventually dies during childbirth, leaving Frederick broken-hearted. The tragedy of this story helped to illustrate to readers the tragedy of World War I. By drawing from his own experiences and making major creative changes, Hemingway penned one of the most famous war novels in American history.

1. In what country was Ernest Hemingway born?
 - a. Italy
 - b. Germany
 - c. England
 - d. United States
2. Which of these is **not** a similarity between Ernest Hemingway and Frederick Henry?
 - a. They were Americans.
 - b. They were injured in World War I.
 - c. They were ambulance drivers.
 - d. They married their nurses.
3. In the context of the passage above, what does the word *mortar* mean?
 - a. The material between bricks
 - b. A type of weaponry
 - c. A type of vehicle
 - d. A writing implement used by authors
4. Ernest Hemingway was in the Italian army.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Ernest Hemingway worked on *A Farewell to Arms* while in Arkansas.
 - a. True
 - b. False

