

## ABSTRACT

### IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: THE SPIRITUAL LANDSCAPE OF HEMINGWAY'S NICK ADAMS

In the fictional life of Nick Adams, Ernest Hemingway examines the question of creating meaning in a world that personal experience and social events have rendered meaningless. Beginning with In Our Time Hemingway outlines Nick's struggle to understand life and create a viable world-view. Nick's war experience, in which he faces almost total psychological and physical destruction, relieves him of the misconceptions about human suffering and death he formed as a child. Hemingway presents Nick with the challenge of a two-fold recovery: Nick must restore his physical and psychological health and create a mature world-view he understands and can accept. Nick finally achieves his recovery through the multi-dimensional combination of identity, memory, and experience. The result is the creation of a hybrid or composite story/experience in which multiple realities are woven together to form a coherent, satisfying whole.

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