

ABSTRACT

THE THINGS MOST DEFINITE: DEATH AND WORK IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S NONFICTION WORKS

Ernest Hemingway examines issues of death and work in his three major nonfiction works, illuminating the ways in which the two function for and against one another in the life of a man. *Death in the Afternoon*, *Green Hills of Africa*, and *A Moveable Feast* all place work and death at the center of the discussion, linking the bullfight, the hunt, and the work of writing together as work done in the face of, even in spite of, death. Ultimately, all work is a tragedy; the better it is the more tragic when it ends. The tragedy creates beauty in life, giving significance to what would otherwise be trite since all must die. Hemingway, being obsessed with things that can be known and defined, writes of the two most substantial truths in life: a man must work and a man must die.

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