

A Make-Your-Own Ernest Hemingway Story

Ernest Hemingway helped to redefine American writing in the early 20th century through his stories and novels. One of his most characteristic and influential traits was his spare and direct style. And it is with that that we have decided to have a little fun. You can use the accompanying list of typical Hemingway words—or come up with your own—to complete the “Hemingway” story below.

A LONG (N) _____

When the (n) _____ pulled into the (n) _____ he stepped onto the platform. He (v) _____ ed his (n) _____. Without a look back he walked out to the street and headed east. He was on his way to (v) _____ in the town of Bethlehem. He'd heard about a certain public library there, and its collection of (n) _____ s. The (n) _____ beat down on his head.

He (v) _____ ed until the afternoon. Under the spreading limbs of a (n) _____ tree he sat down to his lunch. He pulled a (n) _____ and two (n) _____ s out of his pack. As he ate he drank from his (n) _____. It tasted (a) _____ after all that (v) _____ ing. He (v) _____ ed out over the town and nearby hills. They (v) _____ ed in the heat. He knew he had another several (n) _____ s yet to go. He stood. Picking up his (n) _____ he continued walking.

In late afternoon he reached the Bethlehem Area Public Library as the sun (v) _____ ed on its windows. Entering, he (v) _____ ed the circulation desk and asked where he could find the (n) _____ section. He was told to talk to a (a) _____ librarian. He hoped to get his (n) _____ research finished by sunset. He found an open computer and said to himself, “What the (n) _____ is this thing?”

At closing time, he decided to (v) _____ on South Mountain. The dead leaves and pine needles made a soft (n) _____ where he slept for a few hours. The sound of Bethlehem's (n) _____ s made a soothing background for his dreams. In the morning he looked across the river to the City (N) _____ on the other side. It made him feel (a) _____.

NOUNS

rucksack
carbine
wine
fishing rod
regiment
trout
blood
truck
sea
dog
tramp
bridge
toreador
dust
silence
grappa
mackinaw
pocketknife
river
train
pine tree
bullfight
medic
book
cat
bottle
cheese
war
rooster

VERBS

slice
boil
poke
run
speak
stare
camp
punch
fish
wrestle
shoot
kindle
shoulder
walk
chew
spit
bleed
hunt
drink
squint
tramp

ADJECTIVES

strong
cold
hot
drunk

**On PBS starting April 5:
“HEMINGWAY”
A new film by Ken Burns**