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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



She Stoops to Conquer

by Oliver Goldsmith

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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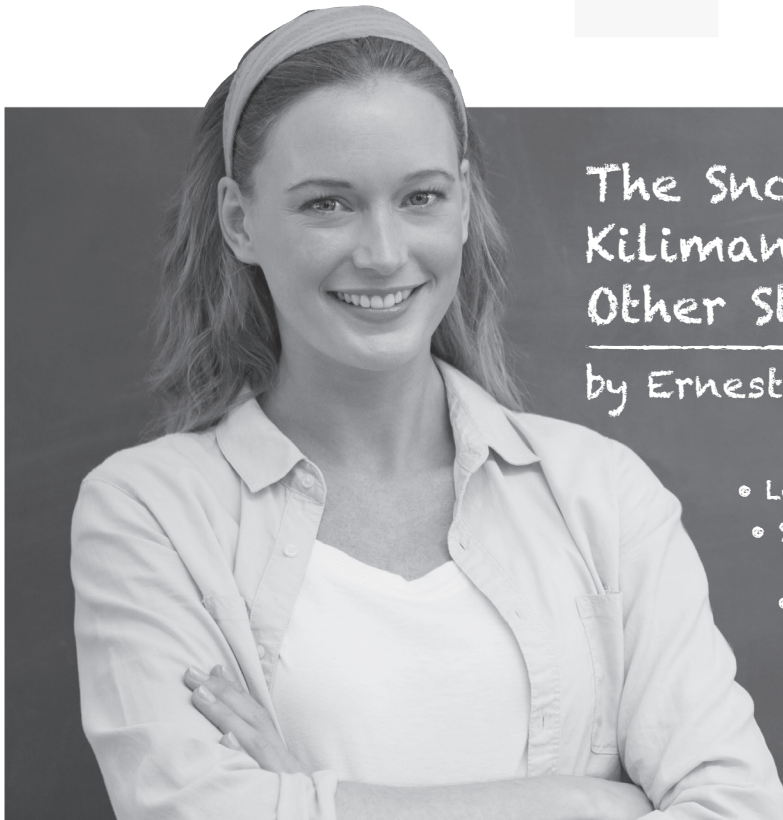
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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

by Ernest Hemingway

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms

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The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

Note to the Teacher

With the possible exception of *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, which some readers feel is tedious and lengthy, most students find the short stories in this collection short, simple to understand, and enjoyable to read; consequently, while there is little need for introductory comments, there are a few points worth mentioning that may add to your understanding and enjoyment of these stories.

1. Hemingway's philosophy of life seems to have been influenced by the French existentialist philosophers with whom he was in contact during his years in Paris. To illustrate this, consider one of existentialism's basic tenets: *Because there is no God, there is no absolute meaning to life*. This idea is encapsulated in the word "nothingness." In fact, Jean Paul Sartre, the leading exponent of existentialism entitled his seminal work *Being and Nothingness*. The existentialists and Hemingway believed that "although life has no meaning man gains dignity by persevering bravely in the face of this nothingness."
2. Hemingway's heroes are rugged men who live by a rigid code of their own morality. This code of conduct requires them to demonstrate determination, self confidence, and humility even in the face of death or defeat. In fact, as Hemingway puts it, "Man can be destroyed, but not defeated." Because his protagonists live by this code, they are referred to as "code heroes."
3. In addition to the points listed in the first objective on the next page, note the following points in regard to Hemingway's style as you are reading these stories:
 - A. recognize that the point of view in the stories follows the consciousness of the central character.
 - B. note his use of irony.
 - C. note also that Hemingway's objective is to create an experience which will arouse emotion. He does not tell the reader what his characters are feeling or what the reader should feel. To this end, he uses simple, concrete language to approximate experience.

All references come from the First Scribner Paperback Fiction edition of *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, published 2003.

The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify and discuss the following salient features of Hemingway's style through his use of:
 - A. terse dialogue
 - B. simple, direct metaphors
 - C. simple vocabulary and short sentences
2. define the term "code hero" and discuss the extent to which the protagonists in each story meet that definition.
3. show, by citing incidents and dialogue from the stories, that the following two themes recur in Hemingway's fiction:
 - A. Life is unfair and/or a painful ordeal.
 - B. Man is capable of endurance and dignity in the face of his pain, loss, or even death.
4. define existentialism and discuss those elements of existentialism which appear in Hemingway's stories.
5. write an essay noting elements common to most of the stories studied, and drawing generalizations.
6. define the vocabulary listed in the study guide.
7. define and cite the following literary terms:
 - irony
 - symbol
 - setting
 - narrator
 - imagery
 - mood
 - characterization
 - protagonist
 - antagonist
 - style
 - concrete
 - metaphor
 - generalization about life
 - point of view

The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Hemingway's heroes are seeking glory and wealth; they have this great ambition to correct all the injustices in the world.
2. Hemingway heroes have no self-pity.
3. Hemingway creates heroes who receive no support from those around them.
4. Hemingway places his heroes in stressful situations. In these situations, the characters must deal with intense tension, and they are required to draw on their outer limits of energy. The more they are capable of enduring their strain, the more heroic they are.
5. Hemingway portrays his heroes as men who are satisfied with themselves and their lives.
6. The Hemingway hero is capable of feeling compassion for the suffering of others.
7. Hemingway admires people who can keep their dignity in the midst of stress.
8. Hemingway rarely shows his heroes to have any faults or weaknesses.
9. Hemingway's focus is on a hero's relationship to the social structure; the hero is one who understands the social structure and manages to work within it.
10. The source of heroism is the desire to stay "human" in spite of all the anguish, strain, and pressure that would force a person to lose rational control.
11. Hemingway sees life as existence in a void where man can find no meaning or clear explanation of events.
12. Hemingway points out that in spite of the struggle of living and the assurance of death, man can have control by accepting and facing pain and death without losing nerve. Man's dignity comes from the fact that he manages to keep up his determined struggle in the face of such overwhelming odds against him.

The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

The Snows of Kilimanjaro

VOCABULARY

- acutely** – very, extremely
- acquiescence** – acceptance, agreement
- carcass** – the body of a dead animal
- comparatively** – relatively, rather
- contemptuous** – disapproving
- corrosion** – damage, decay
- despised** – strongly disliked, hated
- melodramatic** – overly emotional, exaggerated
- monocle** – a single eyeglass
- progression** – a series or sequence
- proprietor** – owner
- scythe** – a tool for cutting hay
- sloth** – laziness, idleness
- summit** – top, peak

1. The focus of this story is on the main character, Harry. Hemingway has the reader follow Harry’s thoughts and conversations. Explain the point of view that is used.

2. Explain Harry’s situation and how he got into this situation.

3. Harry thinks about his wife as he waits to die. Explain how Harry feels about his wife and describe their relationship.

The Killers

VOCABULARY

convent – house where members of a religious order live
corridor – a long hallway
croquettes – small patties of minced foods
oblige – to help; please others
swagger – to shake off, remove
wicket – a small window leading to another room

1. Who are the two killers? What can we infer about them?

2. Who are they going to kill and why?

3. How does Ole Anderson respond to Nick's news?

4. Is Anderson a hero in your mind?

Fathers and Sons

VOCABULARY

bequeathed – given to
heinous – terrible, wicked, shocking
indignantly – resentfully, crossly
javelins – long spears thrown as a weapons
merit – worth, value
renegade – a rebel or traitor
sentimental – emotional

1. What is the point of view of this story?

2. What did Nick and his father have in common?

3. With what group of Indians did Nick live and hunt? What is Nick’s answer when his son asks, “What was it like, Papa, when you were a little boy and used to hunt with the Indians?”

4. In the beginning of the story, Nick is driving his vehicle, and his son is asleep in the car. Nick thinks about the scenery, hunting, and then his father. What does he always remember first about his father? Why does he notice this feature more than any other?
