

“Three Shots”: Ernest Hemingway’s Nick Adams



Hemingway Facts

Here are some facts and pictures from Hemingway’s life. See if you can point out which facts and experiences he drew upon to write “Three Shots” from *The Nick Adams Stories*.

Keep in mind that when Hemingway was a young boy, much of his activity centered around his home and the lake near it, as you can see in Facts #1–3; but as he grew older he developed a taste for adventure and travelling (Facts #4–5). As you go through these facts, think about the characters in “Three Shots” and how the experiences of young Nick Adams might be different from those of the adults around him.

Fact #1: Hemingway’s boyhood summer home was a cottage named Windemere, located on the shores of Walloon Lake in northern Michigan.



Ernest Hemingway Cottage (Windemere), Walloon Lake MI. View of annex, looking west
Aug 1974, NPS Focus, National Register of Historic Places
Photographer: John Scott Mendinghall

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Fact #2: Hemingway’s favorite activities as a young boy were fishing and camping. Some of the earliest bodies of water he fished were School Creek and Horton Lake and he would often go for the weekend, camping in the woods nearby.



Young Ernest Hemingway fishing in Horton’s Creek, near Walloon Lake, Michigan
Photo by UpNorth Memories – Donald (Don) Harrison

Fact #3: Hemingway’s father, Dr. Clarence Edmonds Hemingway, taught Hemingway and all his siblings how to fish, camp and hunt.



The Hemingway Family, Walloon Lake, July 1915 (L-R) Clarence, Carol, Marcelline, Madelaine, Grace, Leicester (held by Grace), Ernest, and Ursula. Image courtesy of Jim Sanford and Clarke Historical Library

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Fact #4: Hemingway loved travelling and went on safari to East Africa twice.



With lion in Africa (1934)

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Photo courtesy of the Ernest Hemingway Collection, JFK Library, Boston, MA

Fact #5: Spain was one of Hemingway’s favorite countries and he went there often. He especially enjoyed Spain’s traditional sport of bullfighting.



With bull in Spain (1927)

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