

NOTE: Ernest Hemingway (1899-1963) wrote his first Collection of Stories *In Our Time*, organizing it by “inter-chapters” between a series of stories in each Chapter.

Within these stories, NICK ADAMS (a young boy in the story below) is introduced and grows up into his teens. His dad is Dr. Henry Adams, a country Doctor with a heart of service to his local community, which included Native Americans (Indians); and of his mom, Mrs. Adams, an avid reader and a devout Christian Scientist.

The other THREE items I would mention for CONTEXT (Sociological Approach) are

- This is ca 1920 rugged, live-off-the-land rural America.
- Upper Michigan: SNOW country with forests, streams, rivers, hazards, bears, elk, deer, wild boar, hunting, guns, fishing, ICE, chopping firewood, OUTDOOR life, Cabin Life, and occasional Cabin Fever (SURVIVAL).
- In this part of the world in America’s remote northern forests, ca 1920,
 - Men are Men: they do 99.9% of the hunting, killing, skinning, and butchering of wildlife, woodchopping, fishing and gutting, camping for days or weeks at a time; Men do 100% of the fist-fighting, too.
 - Women are Women: traditional (as we saw in “Story of an Hour,” “Desiree’s Baby,” and “The Storm”): they are homemakers, they stay indoors, are child-bearing/child-rearing wives (the better half)

Part of your homework will be to NOTE THE TWO SPECIFIC WORLDS OF MEN AND WOMEN *as they are presented in* “The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife,” entitled to make sure you notice the TWO worlds.... Check out the homework at the end of the story (first) so that you are thinking how you will design your homework.

NOTE: This story is 2-1/2 pages in paperback print, but is 5+ pages in Accessible format.

IN OUR TIME (1925)

CHAPTER II

Minarets stuck up in the rain out of Adrianople across the mud flats. The carts were jammed for thirty miles along the Karagatch road. Water buffalo and cattle were hauling carts through the mud. There was no end and no beginning. Just carts loaded with everything they owned. The old men and women, soaked through, walked along keeping the cattle moving. The Maritza was running yellow almost up to the bridge. Carts were jammed solid on the bridge with camels bobbing along through them. Greek cavalry herded along the procession. The women and children were in the carts, crouched with mattresses, mirrors, sewing machines, bundles. There was a woman having a baby with a young girl holding a blanket over her and crying. Scared sick looking at it. It rained all through the evacuation.

THE DOCTOR AND THE DOCTOR'S WIFE (1925)

Dick Boulton came from the Indian camp to cut up logs for Nick's father. He brought his son Eddy, and another Indian named Billy Tabeshaw with him. They came in through the back gate out of the woods, Eddy carrying the long cross-cut saw. It flopped over his shoulder and made a musical sound as he walked. Billy Tabeshaw carried two big cant-hooks. Dick had three axes under his arm.

He turned and shut the gate. The others went on ahead of him down to the lake shore where the logs were buried in the sand.

The logs had been lost from the big log booms that were towed down the lake to the mill by the steamer *Magic*. They had drifted up onto the beach and if nothing were done about them sooner or later the crew of the *Magic* would come along the shore in a rowboat, spot the logs, drive an iron spike with a ring on it into the end of each one and then tow them out into the lake to make a new boom. But the lumbermen might never come for them because a few logs were not worth the price of a crew to gather them. If no one came for them they would be left to waterlog and rot on the beach.

Nick's father always assumed that this was what would happen, and hired the Indians to come down from the camp and cut the logs up with the cross-cut saw and split them with a wedge to make cord wood and chunks for the open fireplace. Dick Boulton walked around past the cottage down to the lake. There were four big beech logs lying almost buried in the sand. Eddy hung the saw up by one of its handles in the crotch of a tree. Dick put the three axes down on the little dock. Dick was a half-breed and many of the farmers around the lake believed he was really a white man. He was very lazy but a great worker once he was started. He took a plug of tobacco out of his pocket, bit off a chew and spoke in Ojibway to Eddy and Billy Tabeshaw.

They sunk the ends of their cant-hooks into one of the logs and swung against it to loosen it in the sand. They swung their weight against the shafts of the cant-hooks. The log moved in the sand. Dick Boulton turned to Nick's father.

"Well, Doc," he said, "that's a nice lot of timber you've stolen."

"Don't talk that way, Dick," the doctor said. "It's driftwood."

Eddy and Billy Tabeshaw had rocked the log out of the wet sand and rolled it toward the water.

"Put it right in," Dick Boulton shouted.

"What are you doing that for?" asked the doctor.

"Wash it off. Clean off the sand on account of the saw. I want to see who it belongs to," Dick said.

The log was just awash in the lake. Eddy and Billy Tabeshaw leaned on their cant-hooks sweating in the sun. Dick kneeled down in the sand and looked at the mark of the scaler's hammer in the wood at the end of the log.

"It belongs to White and McNally," he said, standing up and brushing off his trousers knees.

The doctor was very uncomfortable.

"You'd better not saw it up then, Dick," he said, shortly.

"Don't get huffy, Doc," said Dick. "Don't get huffy. I don't care who you steal from. It's none of my business."

"If you think the logs are stolen, leave them alone and take your tools back to the camp," the doctor said. His face was red.

"Don't go off at half cock, Doc," Dick said. He spat tobacco juice on the log. It slid off, thinning in the water. "You know they're stolen as well as I do. It don't make any difference to me."

"All right. If you think the logs are stolen, take your stuff and get out."

"Now, Doc--"

"Take your stuff and get out."

"Listen, Doc."

"If you call me Doc once again, I'll knock your eye teeth down your throat."

"Oh, no, you won't, Doc."

Dick Boulton looked at the doctor. Dick was a big man. He knew how big a man he was. He liked to get into fights. He was happy. Eddy and Billy Tabeshaw leaned on their canthooks and looked at the doctor. The doctor chewed the beard on his lower lip and looked at Dick Boulton. Then he turned away and walked up the hill to the cottage. They could see from his back how angry he was. They all watched him walk up the hill and go inside the cottage.

Dick said something in Ojibway. Eddy laughed but Billy Tabeshaw looked very serious. He did not understand English, but he had sweat all the time the row was going on. He was fat with only a few hairs of mustache. He picked up the two canthooks. Dick picked up the axes and Eddy took the saw down from the tree. They started off and walked up past the cottage and out the back gate into the woods. Dick left the gate open. Billy Tabeshaw went back and fastened it. They were gone through the woods.

In the cottage the doctor, sitting on the bed in his room, saw a pile of medical journals on the floor by the bureau. They were still in their wrappers unopened. It irritated him.

"Aren't you going back to work, dear?" asked the doctor's wife from the room where she was lying with the blinds drawn.

"No!"

"Was anything the matter?"

"I had a row with Dick Boulton."

"Oh," said his wife. "I hope you didn't lose your temper, Henry."

"No," said the doctor.

"Remember, that he who ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city," said his wife. She was a Christian Scientist. Her Bible, her copy of *Science and Health* and her *Quarterly* were on a table beside her bed in the darkened room.

Her husband did not answer. He was sitting on his bed now, cleaning a shotgun. He pushed the magazine full of the heavy yellow shells and pumped them out again. They were scattered on the bed.

"Henry," his wife called. Then paused a moment. "Henry!"

"Yes," the doctor said.

"You didn't say anything to Boulton to anger him, did you?"

"No," said the doctor.

"What was the trouble about, dear?"

"Nothing much."

"Tell me, Henry. Please don't try and keep anything from me. What was the trouble about?"

"Well, Dick owes me a lot of money for pulling his squaw through pneumonia and I guess he wanted a row so he wouldn't have to take it out in work."

His wife was silent. The doctor wiped his gun carefully with a rag. He pushed the shells back in against the spring of the magazine. He sat with the gun on his knees. He was very fond of it. Then he heard his wife's voice from the darkened room.

"Dear, I don't think, I really don't think that anyone would really do a thing like that."

"No?" the doctor said.

"No. I can't really believe that anyone would do a thing of that sort intentionally."

The doctor stood up and put the shotgun in the corner behind the dresser.

"Are you going out, dear?" his wife said.

"I think I'll go for a walk," the doctor said.

"If you see Nick, dear, will you tell him his mother wants to see him?" his wife said.

The doctor went out on the porch. The screen door slammed behind him. He heard his wife catch her breath when the door slammed.

"Sorry," he said, outside her window with the blinds drawn.

"It's all right, dear," she said.

He walked in the heat out the gate and along the path into the hemlock woods. It was cool in the woods even on such a hot day. He found Nick sitting with his back against a tree, reading.

"Your mother wants you to come and see her," the doctor said.

"I want to go with you," Nick said.

His father looked down at him.

"All right. Come on, then," his father said. "Give me the book, I'll put it in my pocket."

"I know where there's black squirrels, Daddy," Nick said.

"All right," said his father. "Let's go there."

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Homework Instruction: Use an MLA formatted document (heading, HEADER with page # and last name in upper-right corner) DOUBLE-SPACING, thank you.

Go through the story again and look closely at the two distinct "worlds" Hemingway paints for Nick's mom and for Nick's dad.

First, write out some of the details: use direct words/phrases/quotes to list the distinct details in both of those very different worlds.

Then answer these two questions, based on your impressions of Nick from the little bit of text that we actually get about him:

(1) Do you think Nick tends to be aligned more with his mother or his father? Comment on BOTH (critical thinking). Briefly explain your answer in ~100 words.

(2) Invest about 250-300 words to DISCUSS how a reader might decide that Mrs. Adams is a loving, supportive wife. But, *on the other hand*, how might a reader decide that Mrs. Adams is an abrasive, antagonistic, even contemptuous wife. Obviously, BOTH SIDES must be supported by key words/phrases /quotes from the text itself, along with YOUR interpretation of the words and phrases you select. KEEP YOUR QUOTED WORDS to a minimum. Integrate QUOTES with PARAPHRASING like you learned in English 1A. For example,

When Dr. Adams finds Nick reading a book at a Hemlock tree, he tells Nick his mom wants him to "come and see her." But Nick would rather go find "black squirrels, Daddy." After Dr. Adams puts the book in his pocket, he says, "Let's go there" (6).

(47 total words with 10 quoted words in this sample)

Notice the page reference at the END of the sentence. And NOTICE THE PERIODS AND COMMAS GO *INSIDE* the quotation marks.