

# PABLO PICASSO

## The painter

### HIS EARLY LIFE

On 25 October, 1881, a baby boy was born in Málaga, Spain. It was a difficult birth and to help him breathe, cigar smoke was blown into his nose! This baby grew up to be one of the twentieth century's greatest painters – **PABLO PICASSO**.

Picasso showed his genius from a very young age. His first word was *lápiz* (Spanish for *pencil*) and he could draw before he could talk. He was the only son in the family, so he was thoroughly spoiled. He hated school and often refused to go unless he was allowed to take one of his father's pet pigeons with him!

Apart from pigeons, his great love was art. When in 1891 his father got a job as an art teacher, Pablo went with him to work and watched him paint. Sometimes he was allowed to help. One evening, his father was painting a picture of their pigeons when he had to leave the room. When he returned, Pablo had completed the picture. It was so beautiful and lifelike that he gave his son his palette and brushes and never painted again. Pablo was just thirteen.

### HIS LIFE AS AN ARTIST

His genius as an artist was soon recognized by many people, but others were shocked by his strange and powerful paintings. He is probably best known for his Cubist pictures. His portraits of people were often made up of triangles and squares with their features in the wrong places. One of his most famous portraits was of the American writer



Gertrude Stein, who he met after he'd moved to Paris in 1904.

His work changed ideas about art around the world, and to millions of people, modern art means the work of Picasso. *Guernica* [below], which he painted in 1937, records the bombing of that small Basque town during the Spanish Civil War, and is undoubtedly one of the masterpieces of modern painting.

### HIS FINAL YEARS

Picasso married twice and also had many mistresses. He had four children. The last, Paloma, was born in 1949 when he was 68 years old. At the age of 90 he was honoured by an exhibition in the Louvre in Paris. He was the first living artist to be shown there.

Picasso created over 6,000 paintings, drawings, and sculptures. Today, a Picasso costs millions of pounds. Once, when the French Minister of Culture was visiting Picasso, the artist accidentally spilled some paint on the Minister's trousers. Picasso apologized and wanted to pay for them to be cleaned, but the Minister said, 'Non! Please, Monsieur Picasso, just sign my trousers!'

Picasso died of heart failure during an attack of influenza in 1973.



# ERNEST HEMINGWAY

## The writer



### HIS EARLY LIFE

**ERNEST HEMINGWAY** was one of the great American writers of the twentieth century. He was born on 21 July 1899, in Oak Park, Illinois, the second of six children. His family was strict and very religious. His father taught his children a love of nature and the outdoor life. Ernest caught his first fish at the age of three, and was given a shotgun for his twelfth birthday. His mother taught him a love of music and art. At school, he was good at English and wrote for the school newspaper. He graduated in 1917, but he didn't go to college. He went to Kansas City and worked as a journalist for the *Star* newspaper. He learned a lot, but left after only six months to go to war.

### HEMINGWAY AND WAR

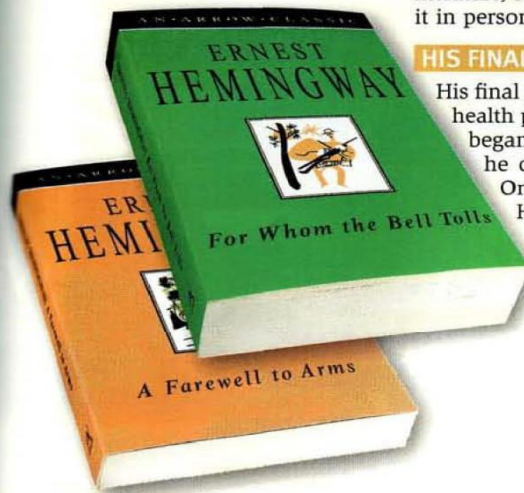
Hemingway was fascinated by war. He had wanted to become a soldier, but couldn't because he had poor eyesight. Instead, in the First World War, he became an ambulance driver and was sent to Italy, where he was wounded in 1918. After the war, he went to live in Paris, where he was encouraged in his work by the American writer Gertrude Stein. In the 1930s, he became a war correspondent in the Spanish Civil War and World War II. Many of his books were about war. His most successful book, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was written in 1940 and is about the Spanish Civil War. Another novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, is about the futility of war.

### HIS PERSONAL LIFE

Hemingway's success in writing was not mirrored by similar success in his personal life. He married four times. His first wife divorced him in 1927. He immediately married again and moved to Key West, Florida, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and drinking, but he also suffered from depression. This wasn't helped when, in 1928, his father committed suicide. Hemingway's health was not good and he had many accidents. Two more marriages failed and he began to drink heavily. In 1954, he survived two plane crashes. In October of the same year he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, but he was too ill to receive it in person.

### HIS FINAL YEARS

His final years were taken up with health problems and alcohol. He began to lose his memory and he couldn't write any more. On Sunday, 2 July 1961, Hemingway killed himself with a shotgun, just as his father had done before him.



- Why are they famous?
- What nationality were they?
- Which century were they born in?
- Do you know the names of any of their works?
- Do you know anything about their lives?

- 1** The sentences below appear in the texts. Try to guess which sentences go with which man. Write **P** (Picasso) or **H** (Hemingway).
- His first word was *lápiz* (Spanish for *pencil*) and he could draw before he could talk.
  - He had wanted to become a soldier, but couldn't because he had poor eyesight.
  - His portraits of people were often made up of triangles and squares with their features in the wrong places.
  - In the 1930s, he became a war correspondent in the Spanish Civil War and World War II.
  - He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, but he was too ill to receive it in person.
  - At the age of 90 he was honoured by an exhibition in the Louvre in Paris.

- 2 What do the underlined words refer to in these sentences?
- a It was really boring! I fell asleep during the first act.  
a play
  - b I didn't like his first one, but I couldn't put his latest one down until the last page.
  - c It was excellent. Have you seen it yet? It stars Julia Kershaw and Antonio Bellini.
  - d She's usually good, but I don't think she was right for this part.
  - e I think they spoil them. They always give them whatever they want.
  - f It was a nice break, but the weather wasn't very good.
  - g They were delicious. John had tomato and mozzarella and I had tuna and sweetcorn.
  - h It was really exciting, especially when David Stuart scored in the closing minutes.

- 3 Match questions 1–8 with the opinions in exercise 1.

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Did you like the film?               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 What did you think of the play?      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3 Did you like your pizzas?            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4 Do you like Malcolm Baker's novels?  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5 What do you think of their children? | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 6 What was your holiday like?          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 7 What did you think of Sally Cotter?  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 8 What was the match like?             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |