

QUICK CARD: *A CLEAN WELL-LIGHTED PLACE*



Reference	<i>A Clean Well-Lighted Place</i> , Ernest Hemingway. (1998)
Plot	Two waiters, one old and the other young, discuss an old drunk who frequents their establishment, the elder alone empathizing with his plight.
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean and well-lit café. • After two in the morning.
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An old, deaf and drunk man • A young, impatient waiter • An older, empathetic waiter • A barman in a bodega
Conflict	<p>Man vs. Nature- The elder waiter who observes the old man can, like him, find no meaning in life. He is haunted by fear that nothing is at the heart of everything.</p> <p>Man vs. Himself – The elder characters in the story struggle to create some order in the chaos and fragmentation of the world as they have experienced it, numbing their pain with drink and hiding from the darkness of their thoughts in cafés through the night watches.</p>
Theme	<p>Grace under pressure. Hemingway holds out personal dignity as the only possible good in the face of a meaningless universe.</p> <p>The pervasive sadness of despair.</p> <p>The futility of life.</p> <p>Youth vs Experience as the measure of empathy</p>
Literary Devices	<p>Repetition – of the word “nada,” which conveys the thematic idea of a void of meaning in the universe and man’s life.</p> <p>Allusion- Hemingway includes a perversion of the Lord’s Prayer to underscore the old waiter’s world view conclusions and convey his thematic ideas.</p>