Today, Hemingway's thematic influence is a victim of its own success. The tough-talking private investigator is such a pervasive figure in our culture that it seems always to have existed. As his death recedes further into the past, the "Papa" lifestyle becomes harder to recall and therefore tougher to emulate than when Hemingway's exploits were a fixture in newsreels and the pages of Life magazine. Read this full essay on Ernest Hemingway's In Our Time. "The times, they are a changing," famous words spoken by Bob Dylan, a king of his generation. "Lost generation," is an interesting phrase, but what kind of meaning should it hold? Ernest Hemingway's In Our Time is a true representation of a "lost generation" for the simple reason that all generations are eventually lost as time goes by. Hemingway focuses on a generation he knows a great deal about—his own. It becomes apparent throughout the novel that Hemingway is trying to give the reader a feel for what times were like (or at least what he wanted or perceived them to be like) and knowingly or maybe even somewhat inadvertently conveys a message about the time period in question. All of the "messages" bring the reader to an understanding of a ge