Name

Instructor Name

Subject

Date

**Reflective Essay: Ernest Hemingway**

I have always been very fond of reading literature and imagining fictional characters in different situations but when I read *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway, I can relate to the character of Frederic Henry on a personal level. Henry's perception of war and its heroes was abstract and based on his fantasies. But when he had a firsthand experience of the horrors war, his perception of war changed altogether. He used to help the injured soldiers and after experiencing the war he started killing people. Likewise, I used to think that the world is full of good people and friendship is a great asset but when I grew up, my idea of friendship changed.

The goodness of Henry's human nature shifted into that of a person, who would now think of his own needs first. Before the war, Henry was a messiah, a good friend, and a great conversationalist. He put on hold his degree, something he was very passionate about and instead went to help the soldiers for the greater good of the community was when he experienced that he alone cannot control fate and he also realized the human limitations. Similarly, as I grew up, I analyzed the human limitations that I had to study, take rest and focus on my hobbies too. I could not help everyone all the time and many people became weary of my self-realization. Hemingway puts it in the novel as "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places” (Hemingway, 276).

Self-realization is a good thing and a person does not become bad, a fallen hero or selfish only because he realizes that he needs rest or his ideas about the world should be revoked

(Importance of Self Realization). I strongly feel that both I and Henry, the character wanted to help everyone but we forgot that being humans, our needs and wants should be catered too.

**Works Cited**

Hemingway, Ernest. *A farewell to arms: The Hemingway library edition*. Simon and Schuster, 2012.

“Importance of Self Realization | Importance of Enlightenment | Benefits of Self Realization.” Accessed November 5, 2019. [https://www.dadabhagwan.org/path-to-happiness/spiritual- science/who-am-i-realize-your-true-self/benefits-of-self-realization/](https://www.dadabhagwan.org/path-to-happiness/spiritual-%09science/who-am-i-realize-your-true-self/benefits-of-self-realization/).