

Hemingway's Iceberg Theory

"If a writer of prose knows enough about what he is writing about, he may omit things that he knows, and the reader, (if the writer is writing truly enough) will have a feeling of those things as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water. A good writer does not need to reveal every detail of a character or action."

"If it is any use to know it, I always try to write on the principle of the iceberg. There is seven-eighths of it underwater for every part that shows. Anything you know you can eliminate, and it only strengthens your iceberg. It is the part that doesn't show.

If a writer omits something because he does *not* know it, then there is a hole in the story."

Ernest Hemingway

Sometimes in literature, less is more.

This statement throws light on the symbolic implications of art. He makes use of physical action to provide an interpretation of the nature of man's existence. It can be convincingly proved that, "while representing human life through fictional forms, he has consistently set man against the background of his world and universe to examine the human situation from various points of view".

-E.M. Halliday

