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The Lost Generation: F. S. Fitzgerald, J. Steinbeck and E. Hemingway. The Narrative of W. Faulkner

La generación perdida: S. Fitzgerald, J. Steinbeck y E. Hemingway. La narrativa de W. Faulkner

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"You are all a lost generation." Few sentences in American literature have travelled as far as this one. Gertrude Stein is said to have spoken it to a young Ernest Hemingway in Paris, and Hemingway placed it at the head of his first great novel, *The Sun Also Rises* (1926). The phrase named the writers who came of age during the First World War and found in prose a way of making sense of the ruins. It raises the central question of this topic: lost from what, and found through what?

I will begin with the historical and cultural context of the term and with the question of who really belongs to the Lost Generation. Secondly, I will study F. Scott Fitzgerald, the chronicler of the Jazz Age. Thirdly, I will turn to Ernest Hemingway, the master of the spare style. Fourthly, I will deal with John Steinbeck, who made his name in the following decade writing about the Great Depression. Fifthly, I will examine the narrative of William Faulkner, the great experimenter of the American South. Finally, I will consider the pedagogical and didactic implications of these authors and end with a conclusion that returns to the opening phrase.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted: Malcolm Cowley's *Exile's Return: A Literary Odyssey of the 1920s*, first published in 1934, Matthew J. Bruccoli's *Some Sort of Epic Grandeur: The Life of F. Scott Fitzgerald*, and Joseph Blotner's *Faulkner: A Biography*, together with the biographical and prize pages of the Nobel Foundation and the Stanford and San José State University centres for Steinbeck studies. For the legal framework I have used Organic Law 3/2020 of 29 December (LOMLOE), which modifies Organic Law 2/2006 on Education, Royal Decrees 217/2022 and 243/2022, and the Extremaduran Decrees 110/2022 and 109/2022 as amended in 2023.