

But Why, Ernest, WHY?!

Why did Hemingway write a text that we can't understand what the characters are talking about? During all the text it is never explicit what the characters are talking about. The author leaves it out to the reader to make his own conclusion with some tips about what the dialogue is about. One of the best conclusions about what the man and the girl are talking about is an abortion operation that Jig would do.

During the story, the author leaves much information given by the characters in the air, with many implicit meanings in the characters' dialogs. As the conversation between the two characters was about an abortion operation, the fact that he left a lot of implicit information in the text may have been due to the characters' caution not to be caught talking about this operation at a time when the abortion was something extremely prohibited and condemning in the country.

The story ends with the man asking Jig if she was feeling better, and she replies: "I feel fine," she said. "There's nothing wrong with me. I feel fine.", ending the story at the train station and not giving information about the future of both of the characters, probably with the in order to make the reader imagine the future of the story and the result regarding the decision if Jig will do the operation and if it will or not be successful.

The story consists mostly of a conversation between a man and a woman, but Hemingway never explicitly tells us what they are talking about. He leaves so much out because he is making an inference. Letting questions unanswered so the reader has to put the pieces together and figure them out. And one of the motives can be that the characters are talking about an operation of abortion, and aren't explicit because it was prohibited at this time.

These points may be sustained by many quotes from the story, such as: "It's really an awfully simple operation, Jig," the man said. "It's not really an operation at all", "I'll go with you and I'll stay with you all the time. They just let the air in and then it's all perfectly natural.", "Then what will we do afterward? We'll be fine afterward. Just like we were before."