

## Confidence

That word appears frequently in Hemingway  
(look it up)  
and it is used to great effect  
(look it up)  
in everything from “A Clean Well-Lighted Place”  
to “In Another Country” and all things between  
(look it up)  
even when the word itself does not appear.  
It is the root of the problem for Nick Adams  
for Jake Barnes and most of the others  
(look it up)  
even though it is implied not stated.  
It appears at least as frequently as nothing  
(look it up).  
Philip Roth uses it to great effect in *Everyman*  
(look it up)  
and it is for the same purpose as Hemingway  
(look it up).  
I have always understood this word and its use  
but I never really appreciated the sense they use it  
until sundered, shattered, scattered,  
what was once whole became less than whole  
and the word became its parts  
(look it up).

– Jeffery Greb