



TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 9-12

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

The Sun Also Rises

Ernest Hemingway

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Sun Also Rises

Ernest Hemingway

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Research, compare/contrast,
analysis, evaluation,
pros/cons, problem solving

Writing

Poetry, compare/contrast,
diary entry, description,
dialogue, creative

Literary Terms

Style, point of view, satire,
understatement, symbol,
foreshadowing, theme,
imagery

Listening/Speaking

Discussion, debate, personal
experiences, music, interview

Comprehension

Inference, prediction,
assimilation

Vocabulary

Analogies, context,
definition, foreign words,
word play

Fine Arts

Music, cultural appreciation,
role-playing, drama, art

Genre: fiction—social criticism

Setting: Paris, France; Pamplona, Spain

Point of View: first-person narrative

Themes: unrequited love, disillusionment and loss after World War I, facing loss with courage

Conflict: person vs. person; person vs. self

Tone: cynical, superficial

Protagonist: Jake Barnes

Antagonist: Lady Brett Ashley

Style: Hemingway introduced a new terse style, lacking in adjectives and adverbs; it was stark but effective.

Sensitive Subject Matter: homosexuality, impotence, racist and anti-Semitic dialogue

Summary

The story centers around “The Lost Generation,” a group of Americans living in Europe after World War I. The group is representative of many who lost their ideals and values after the war. The characters live in Paris amidst a swirl of activity but also travel to Spain for the fiesta, a seven-day flurry of celebration, including days of bullfighting. Jake Barnes is the central character who is impotent because of a war injury. Thus, he is unable to form a stable relationship with the promiscuous Lady Brett Ashley, a woman he truly adores. Brett is emotionally dysfunctional and has disastrous relationships with four men, although she continually returns to Jake, her confidante. The novel develops the lifestyles and philosophies held by those in the “Lost Generation” of the 1920s.

Characters

Jake Barnes: narrator; an American newspaper writer who has been badly wounded in the war; desperately in love with Lady Brett Ashley

Lady Brett Ashley: an alcoholic; a beautiful and appealing expatriate; loves Jake Barnes, but is engaged to Mike Campbell and has other promiscuous relationships

Robert Cohn: a Jewish writer living in Paris; bored with life; a casual friend of Jake; becomes infatuated with and eventually a lover of Lady Brett Ashley

Frances Clyne: the American girlfriend of Robert Cohn who wants to marry him

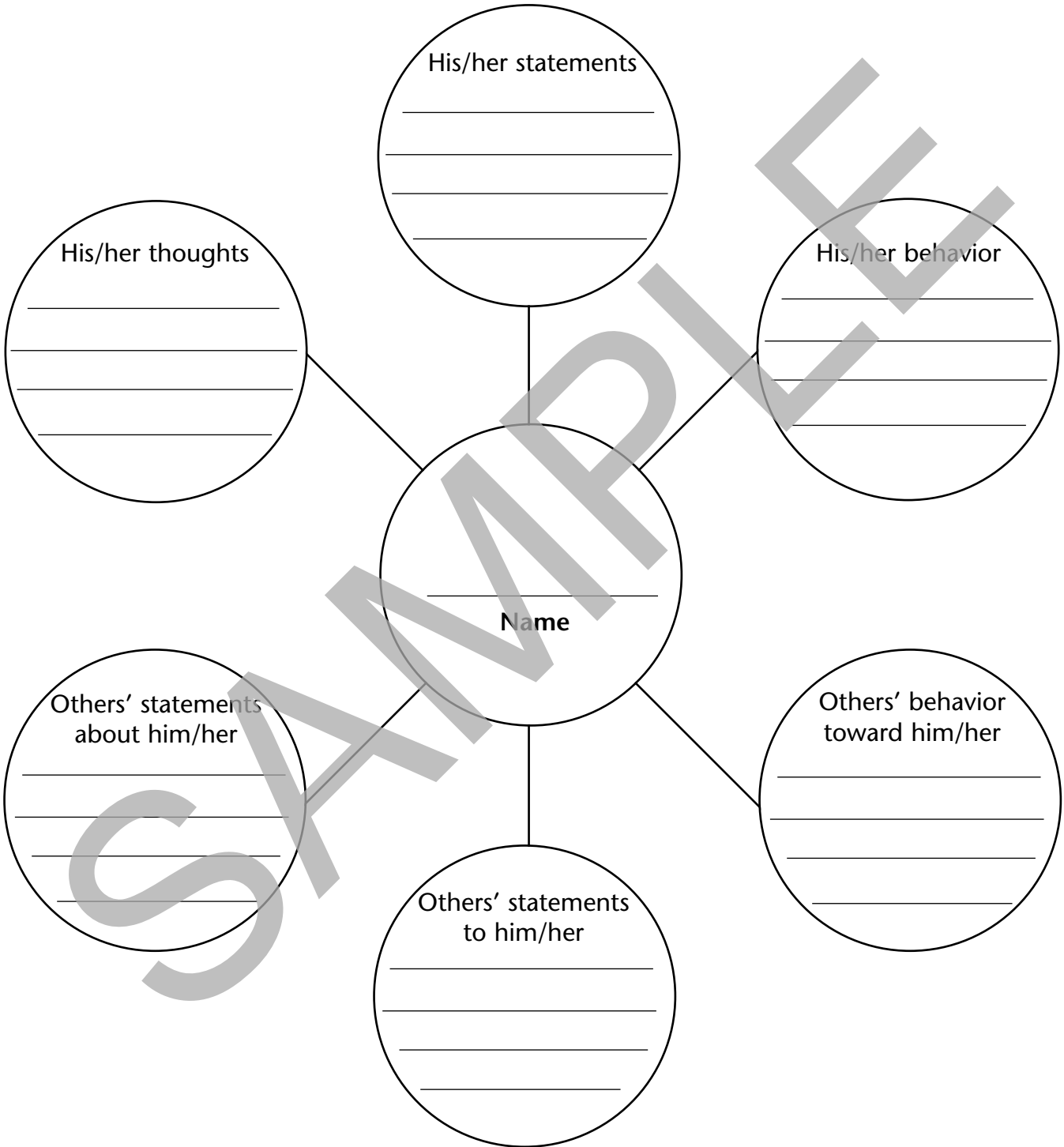
Georgette Hobin: the prostitute picked up by Jake Barnes

Count Mippipopolous: a wealthy Greek expatriate who finds Lady Ashley extremely attractive; war veteran

Mike Campbell: Lady Ashley’s fiancé; a drunk who has a vicious tongue; anti-Semitic and hateful toward Robert Cohn, but also lashes out at others

Bill Gorton: Jake’s friend from England who goes fishing with him and later attends the fiesta in Pamplona

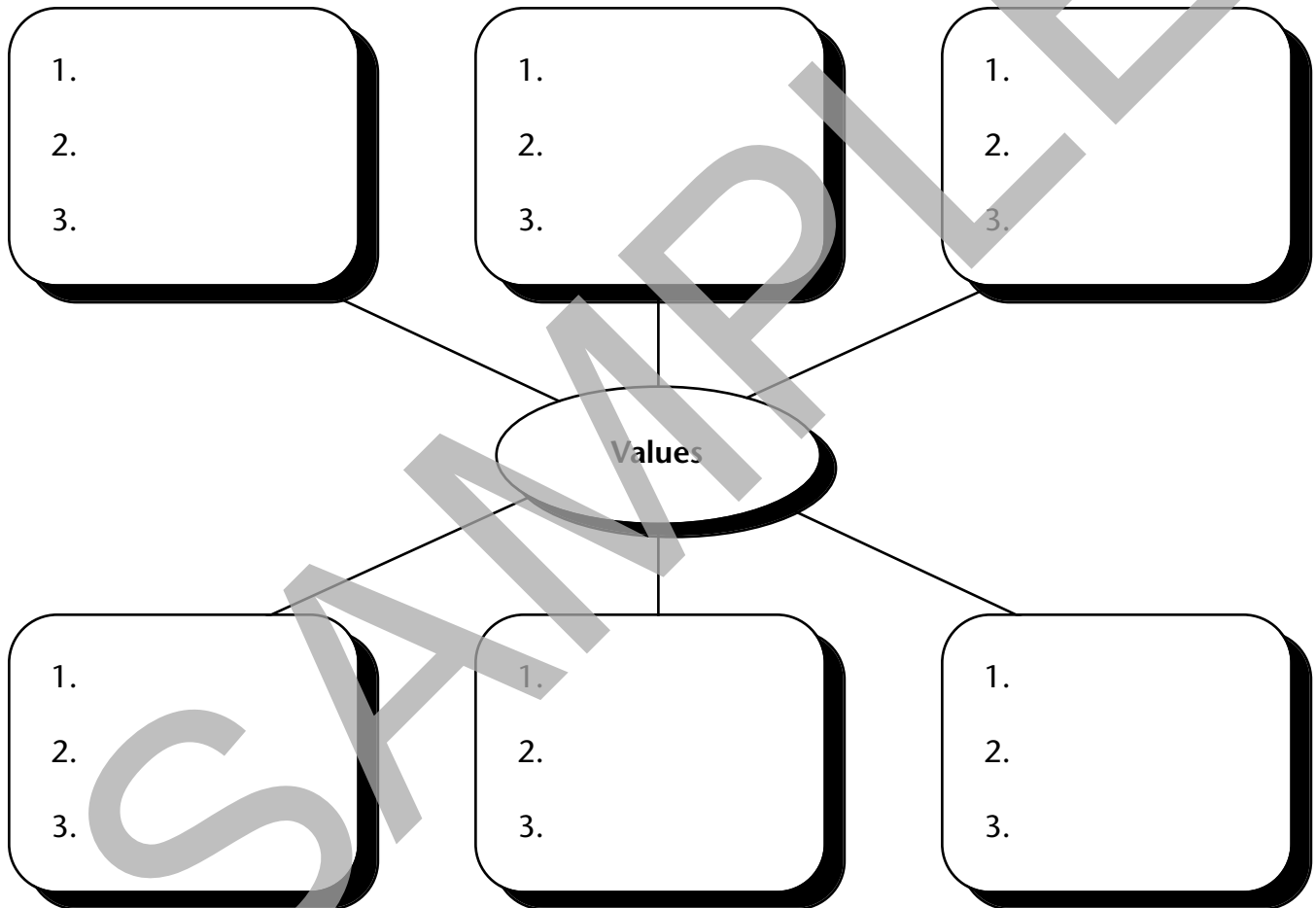
Directions: Complete the attribute web by filling in information on one of the two major characters—Jake Barnes or Lady Brett Ashley.



Understanding Values

Values represent people's beliefs about what is important, good, or worthwhile. In *The Sun Also Rises*, World War I has given the expatriates a value system different from the average person who did not become part of the "Lost Generation."

Directions: On the diagram below, list six characters from the novel. Below each name, list what the character views as important in his/her life OR values that have been altered because of the war.



Book I

Chapters I–II, pp. 11–21

The first chapter introduces the Parisian setting, plus the main character Jake Barnes, who narrates the successes and failures of Robert Cohn's life. He and Cohn have vastly different views about the way life should be lived, as evidenced by Barnes' satiric and cynical comments to Cohn. The reader learns much about Barnes himself from his commentary on Cohn.

Vocabulary
exploitation (13)
<i>fines</i> (14)
kiosque* (15)
sinister (17)
amorous (17)
<i>apéritif</i> (21)
* French spelling

Discussion Questions

1. How does the novel, even in these chapters, reflect Hemingway's own life? (*Expatriates are living in Paris; they have an interest in bullfighting; the men are writers; they have relationships with more than one woman; the lifestyle is similar to what Hemingway lived; Hemingway was wounded in WWI, but not with the same type of wound from which Barnes suffers.*)
2. What is outstanding about Hemingway's style? (*His style is full of short, concise sentences. The conversation is fast-paced with a lack of adjectives and adverbs. Much of the information is unspoken, forcing the reader to make assumptions.*)
3. Discuss Barnes' attitude toward Robert Cohn. (*Barnes and Cohn have a superficial friendship—Cohn is his "tennis friend." Barnes "mistrust[s] all frank and simple people," referring to Cohn. Later Barnes explains how literary people in California had taken advantage of Cohn, showing Cohn's naïveté. Barnes comments that when Cohn returned from publishing his novel, he was not as nice as when he left. Barnes does not appear to be a very serious or close friend to Robert Cohn. pp. 12–13, 16*)
4. Examine Robert Cohn's life, according to Jake Barnes. How does Barnes present him as a failure who is dissatisfied with himself? (*He suffered from a bad marriage and is not married to his new girlfriend, Frances; he has gone through his fortune; he was a boxer, not because he liked it, but in order to improve his self-esteem. Barnes lists little that Cohn can look back on with a feeling of success and satisfaction. Even though he has published a novel, Cohn returns to Europe dissatisfied and wants to go to South America to get away. Barnes seems to think Cohn is running from something and advises him that he will not find contentment in South America unless he has first found contentment within himself. pp. 11–12, 18*)
5. **Prediction:** Where will Robert Cohn's dissatisfaction with his life lead?

Supplementary Activities

1. Have students interview a war veteran to gain insight about post-war life and emotions.
2. As a class, discuss whether the novel is more effective because it is written in first-person narrative rather than third-person.
3. Assign a paragraph from *The Sun Also Rises* for the students to write in third-person.
4. Have students list in two columns what makes a person a realist or a romantic. Then discuss how the comparison relates to the characters of Jake Barnes and Robert Cohn.