

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

The Sun Also Rises

by Ernest Hemingway

Copyright © 2001 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. *This material,
in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.*

ISBN: 978-1-60389-653-5

Item No. 201691

Chapter One

1. Robert dislikes boxing, but he pursues learning in order “to counteract the feeling of inferiority and shyness he had felt.” Relate a time when you or someone you know felt intimidated by something. What was done about the situation?
2. Imagine yourself ten years after senior graduation. What accomplishments or traits do you want your classmates to remember about you? What do you think you’ll be remembered for?
3. “I mistrust all frank and simple people, especially when their stories hold together...” What do you suppose this comment means, and does it bring to mind anyone you know?
4. Just as Robert has a literary friend and a tennis friend, we all have made friends for different reasons. Think about two of your closest friends. Why did you become friends with each person and how do the friendships differ?

Chapter Two

5. Describe a character from a movie or book whose personality changes due to fame or wealth. Do you think the change is justified? How do you imagine you would react under similar circumstances?
6. Have you ever read about a place, either real or fictional, and then wanted to go there? In what way and for what reason was the place so appealing?

Response Journal

7. Jake tells Robert, “Nobody ever lives their life all the way up except bull-fighters.” What do you think he means by this statement? Can you think of anyone else that lives “life all the way up”?
8. Jake believes Robert will not find happiness by moving from place to place, but instead must come to peace with himself. Using Jake’s perspective, compose a letter to Robert explaining why a trip to South America will not help him (Robert) escape whatever he is running from.

Chapter Three

9. During a discussion about the war we are told “that in reality it was a calamity for civilization, and perhaps would have been better avoided.” What do you suppose Jake means by a “calamity for civilization”? After a war, what kind of changes do you think occur to society and the economy?
10. Write a school newspaper article supporting your point of view as to whether or not war is right. In your opinion when, if ever, is war justifiable?
11. Why do you suppose Jake is angry over the group of men which Brett arrives at the club with? Does it involve any type of threat to his masculinity and, if so, how does this relate to his war injury?

Chapter Four

12. At times, Jake finds he must laugh about his injury despite the insecurity and embarrassment it causes him. Can you recall a time when you or someone you know experienced an awkward situation in which laughter was the only way to release tensions?

The Sun Also Rises

13. Brett has mixed feelings for Jake and is torn between not wanting to see him and having to see him. Do you think this indecision stems from love, selfishness, or from another factor?
14. Relate a time when you or a friend was forced to make a difficult choice. What were the options weighed and how was a decision reached?
15. While reminiscing about his first encounter with Brett, Jake says, “I suppose she only wanted what she couldn’t have. Well, people were that way.” Do you agree or disagree with this thought? Can you think of an example from a book, movie, or your life to support your opinion?
16. Suppose Jake asks for your advice on what to do about his dilemma with Brett. As his friend, would you suggest he maintain the strenuous relationship or sever contact with her? Explain.

Chapter Five

17. Complete this dialogue:
First Student: The more Robert discusses Brett, the more Jake seems to get upset.
Second Student: Who can blame him? His friend is attracted to the woman he loves.
Third Student: Then why doesn’t Jake tell Robert how he feels? Maybe then Robert will back away from Brett.
You: I think Jake doesn’t mention it because...
18. Jake does not describe Brett with the positive terms Robert wants to hear and, as a result, Robert causes a little scene. Do you feel Robert has a good reason to be upset? Do you consider Jake’s remarks insulting?

Response Journal

19. Notice how easy it is for Jake to calm Robert. What traits enable Jake to maintain his laissez-faire attitude? Do you know anyone with the same personality? What characteristics does this person possess?

Chapter Six

20. Jake mentions how the “association of ideas” can affect one’s perception of a place. Can you think of a time when you associated certain notions or thoughts with a person or place? How did they alter your perspective?
21. While Frances is recounting her story at the Dome, Jake makes comments without saying anything at all. What do you imagine Jake is thinking? Does he see her ranting as humorous, serious, or annoying?
22. As the argument between Frances and Robert builds, we are told that Jake “did not even feel an impulse to try and stop it.” Do you think Jake’s silence is due to discomfort, a lack of interest, or something else? Is he right to remain quiet, or should he try to interrupt the bickering to save Robert further embarrassment?

Chapter Seven

23. The concierge took it upon herself to tell Jake which guests “were well brought up, which were of good family, who were sportsmen...people who did not fall into any of these categories were very liable to be told there was no one home...” This treatment sounds like some form of prejudice. Have you ever witnessed this sort of discrimination? What was the situation you observed, and what do you suppose drove the person to act in that manner?

The Sun Also Rises

24. Some people may consider the manner in which the concierge selectively admits guests as an invasion of privacy. What would be a diplomatic way of asking her to stop screening your guests? Can you recall a time when you felt your privacy was intruded upon and, if so, how did this make you feel?
25. Count Mippipopolous stands out against the rest of Jake's crowd of pleasure-seeking friends. He seems to have a different type of personality. Since he, too, has been to war, why do you suppose he does not share their cynical disposition?
26. The Count lives by an internal value system that helps him lead a contented life. He tells Jake, "It is because I have lived very much that now I can enjoy everything so well." Explain what this comment means to you.
27. The conversation between Brett and the Count briefly touches on the topic of quiet surroundings. Is there a place you like to go for time to yourself or to think? Describe the place. What makes it special or appealing?

Chapter Eight

28. The aimless lifestyle Jake and his friends live is a result of their war experiences. Recall a character from a movie or book that suffers a tragedy and, as a result, undergoes a major personality change. Briefly explain the scenario and the changes that ensued. Do you believe most people would react in a similar fashion? Have you ever encountered someone whose personality was altered from when you knew him or her previously?