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Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

A Farewell to Arms
by Ernest Hemingway

written by Lisa L. Burris

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A Farewell to Arms

To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

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A Farewell to Arms

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Response Sheet

[illegible]

A Farewell to Arms

1. Before you begin your study of *A Farewell to Arms*, write an e-mail to a friend, detailing your guess about the subject of the book. A good way to begin may be

Hi,

My English teacher just assigned us a new book to read. It's called *A Farewell to Arms*. It's written by Ernest Hemingway. I've never heard of it before, but...

2. Ernest Hemingway was famous for two things: his writing and his love of the outdoors. He was an avid hunter, and he went on several African safaris to hunt exotic wild animals.

Some people find the topic of hunting very controversial. Write a short article for a newspaper, expressing your views on hunting. For example, do you approve or disapprove of it?

3. We often take book covers for granted, since we are more concerned about reading the book than keeping it as a work of art. Even so, an artist, be it a painter, graphic artist, or photographer, has probably worked very hard to design every book cover you've ever seen. As an art critic, write a review of the art used for the book cover of *A Farewell to Arms*. Be sure to include your opinion of the artwork, and use plenty of examples to support your opinion.

BOOK ONE

CHAPTER I

4. In this short chapter, Hemingway introduces us to the story. If you read these two pages carefully, you will find many clues as to when and where the book is set. Imagine that you are a private investigator whose area of expertise is fiction books. Carefully go through this chapter and note any clues Hemingway gives you about where, when, and under which circumstances this book takes place. Create a chart of these clues, and then write a short paragraph that explains the setting of this book. You may want to structure your chart like this

Clue

“We live in a house in a village”

House looked out “across the river and plains to the mountains.”

Meaning

Book does not take place in an urban setting

Natural beauty/rural or country setting

CHAPTER II

5. The narrator of this novel(we'll find out later that his name is Frederic Henry) remarks that "the Austrians...did not bombard the village to destroy it, but only a little in the military way." As an Austrian army commander, write a press release, defending your decision to bombard the village "only a little." You may begin like this

September 2

From: Army Commander Resnick, Austrian National Army

To: People of the Village,

We have recently started bombardments...

6. The remark that the major makes, that "all thinking men are atheists," brings to mind an age-old controversy. Many people believe that one can't be an educated, intellectual person and yet still practice a religion, because there is no scientific data to support the existence of a higher power. Others say, however, that there is no connection between religion and education: one can be highly educated and also religious.

Write a dialogue for a television talk show on which two guests argue whether "all thinking men are atheists." A good way to begin may be

Host: Welcome back to *Talk of the Town*. Today we...

CHAPTER III

7. When the narrator arrives back in the village, he returns to find that all of his belongings, despite his absence, are exactly where he left them in his room. He goes into great detail, explaining every item he owns and where those items are located in his room.

Write a descriptive paragraph, telling readers what kind of things you have in your own room. Like the narrator, be sure to explain what each item looks like and where it is located in the room.

8. The narrator says he spent his time off drinking and carousing and not caring about his actions. He says that, essentially, what is happening to him is “all and all and all.” He certainly seems to live for the moment, not worrying about what will happen to him in the future.

Which do you think is wiser, always planning for tomorrow, or simply living for today? Do you think that it is better to always plan ahead, being constantly aware of the consequences of your actions, or would you rather live your life and let the chips fall where they may?

9. The priest is disappointed that Henry did not go to Abruzzi. The priest had written to his family there, telling them to prepare for his friend’s arrival. Though the priest was disappointed, he and Henry still remain friends.

All people have had a time when a friend has let them down. Write a two-paragraph article for *Friendship* magazine, describing a time when a friend disappointed you. In your article, explain what happened, how it made you feel, and how the problem was resolved. Did you continue to be friends with the person who let you down?

CHAPTER IV

10. In speaking of her fiancé's death, Miss Barkley says that she would have given her fiancé anything if she had only known that he would soon die. Everyone has experienced regret the same as Miss Barkley does. It may be in things you wanted to say to someone, but couldn't or something you wanted to do, but wouldn't.

Make a list of 10 words that relate to the loss of a loved one. Then, write a poem about loss using at least four of those words. Here are a couple of words to get you started

- Loss
- Longing
- Sadness

11. Working on the front, Miss Barkley is well aware of the dangers of war. Even so, she holds onto the romantic notion that if her fiancé is injured, he will show up in her hospital. Then, she could personally nurse him back to health. Of course, this is not to be.

What would happen if Miss Barkley's fiancé was only injured and he did come to her hospital to recuperate? In the style of a romance novelist, write a scene for *A Farewell to Arms* in which Miss Barkley's fiancé is not killed, but injured, and is brought to her hospital.

CHAPTER V

12. Henry is an American, yet he is fighting with the Italian army. The reason for this, he says, is because he “was in Italy and...spoke Italian.” It is clear that speaking another language is a benefit for anyone. Speaking a different language can help you to communicate with people of a different culture.

You may speak another language such as Spanish or Hindi, but almost everyone speaks some form of slang. Slang is a made up language that people use to make shorthand references to things. Create a dictionary of at least 20 slang words. Make sure to list your words alphabetically, including a definition of the word. Make sure to use slang that is not vulgar. Here are some examples:

S'later – See you later
Wack – Bad, undesirable
Word – Yes, indeed

13. When Henry first puts his arm around Miss Barkley, she slaps him. A few minutes later, though, she tells Henry she'd be “happy to kiss him.” It's hard to get a handle on their relationship. Does she like Henry or not? Write a dialogue between yourself and a classmate, debating whether Miss Barkley likes Lt. Henry. You may begin like this

You: I don't know about this thing with Miss Barkley and Lt. Henry....

CHAPTER VI

14. At the beginning of this chapter, Henry describes some marble busts that line walls of the hospital office. In thinking of the busts, he says that sculpture is “dull.” What do you think about art: sculpture, painting, etc.? Write a well-structured paragraph, explaining what you like and don’t like about art.

15. Even though Henry thinks it’s ridiculous, it is mandatory that he carry a gun with him at all times. In fact, if he is caught without his gun, he could be arrested.

As an officer of the Italian army, write a mandate for army personnel, requiring them to carry a gun at all times.

You may begin this way

To: All Personnel

From: The Captain...

16. When Henry comes back from his post, he lies and tells Catherine that he loves her. He doesn’t really love her, though. Instead, he sees what he’s doing as a game, like bridge.

If love is a game, there must be rules to accompany it. Make a list of the rules of the game of love.

CHAPTER VII

17. The American soldier with the hernia takes one look at Henry and knows that he is a fellow American. Some people say that you can tell where a person's from by observing his demeanor. For example, a person from the southern United States is thought to speak slowly and with a drawl, to not be very intelligent, and to be overly hospitable.

Americans are often stereotyped this way by people from other countries. As an Italian soldier, write a short essay, explaining how you can identify an American. Be sure to include Americans' stereotypical behaviors and mannerisms.

18. The young soldier that Henry helps has a minor ailment when compared to other injuries that soldiers typically suffer in war. If Henry takes the soldier in for treatment, the soldier will likely have surgery, and then be sent right back out to fight. The soldier, however, doesn't want to go back to the front. Henry then hatches a plan to help the soldier: he tells the soldier to fall beside the road and deliberately injure his head, and he will come back for him. The soldier will then have to be treated for a head injury.

As the attending physician at the field hospital, write the medical report for this wounded soldier. You may start this way

Patient Name: John Doe

Date of Arrival:...

A Farewell to Arms

19. Henry says that he should write home, but he hasn't written in so long that there's almost no point in trying.

As Henry, write a postcard to your family back home in the United States. Make sure to tell them of some of the things you have seen in Italy.

20. Henry wishes he could leave the war and run off to Milan with Catherine. He can just picture the two of them arriving at a hotel on the Vin Manzoni.

If you could have one wish granted, for what would you wish? Write a well-developed essay, explaining your greatest wish and why you'd like that wish to be granted.

CHAPTER VIII

21. Catherine gives Henry a St. Anthony pendant to keep him safe. It also serves as a remembrance of her. What kind of item would you give someone as a remembrance of you? Write a short essay, explaining what type of item you would give someone close to you to serve as a remembrance of you. Be sure to explain why that item represents you well.
22. Arguably, another major character in this novel is the war itself. The war is what drives the action in this book.

We consider ourselves much more advanced than the warriors of old, yet wars are still being fought all over the world today. Will there ever come a time when there will be no more wars?

Write a speech for a political candidate, giving an opinion about whether there will ever be a time when there is no war.

CHAPTER IX

23. Like Lieutenant Henry, Ernest Hemingway drove an ambulance in World War I. He probably used a lot of his own war experiences as the basis for this book.

It is said that everyone has at least one good novel in them; everyone's life has a story. What would you write about if you were going to write a novel based on your life experiences? What would you include in the novel? What would you leave out?

Write a book proposal, a document used to convince a publisher to buy your novel, for a book about your life. Remember, your proposal should convince the publisher that your life story is interesting enough to be a book.

24. Henry's fellow soldiers think that one reason soldiers fight in wars is because they are afraid of their supervisors, the officers. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for workers, like soldiers, to be scared of their supervisors. Write a posting for *Manager's Weekly* website, instructing supervisors on ways to not make their workers scared of them.
25. Passini, one of the ambulance drivers, is killed in mortar fire. As an army officer, write a letter to Passini's family, explaining how he died and offering your condolences.

CHAPTER X

26. Rinaldi wants Henry to get the Silver Star of valor, a decoration for heroic acts in battle, because he was wounded while under attack. In order to receive the Silver Star, however, Henry has to have been doing something brave while he was injured.

The presentation of medals of valor usually comes with some kind of certificate that details the circumstances under which the soldier showed an act of courage. Write a Medal of Honor certificate for Lt. Henry, listing his heroic deeds in battle.

27. Rinaldi and Henry are very close friends. In fact, Rinaldi says the two of them are “war brothers.” Sometimes, experiencing close circumstances like those in wars or at school or work can make people become friends, even though they may not have been friends outside of that circumstance.

Write a posting for an online psychology discussion board, explaining how people who otherwise have nothing in common can become friends simply as a result of being in a dangerous circumstance together.

CHAPTER XI

28. The priest who comes to visit Henry, is depressed. The priest just wants the war to be over so he can return to his beloved town of Abruzzi. It seems that Abruzzi is the only place the priest has ever wanted to live.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live? Make a list of at least a dozen reasons why a person would want to live there. Then, write a short paragraph explaining one of your reasons in detail.

CHAPTER XII

29. His Italian comrades tell Henry that the English girl he was seeing has also been transferred to Milan. There's a good chance, in fact, that he will see her there. Write a short scene for *A Farewell to Arms*, imagining what will happen when Henry and Catherine meet again in Milan.

BOOK TWO

CHAPTER XIII

30. When Henry gets to the hospital in Milan, he gives his hospital papers to the nurse, Mrs. Walker. The problem is that the papers are in Italian, and Mrs. Walker only speaks English. Write out Henry's medical papers so Mrs. Walker can understand what has happened to Lt. Henry. You may choose to begin like this

Name: Frederic Henry

Rank: Lieutenant...

31. When Henry arrives at the hospital, there is no doctor available. The doctor assigned to the hospital is helping at a clinic in Lake Como. When Henry learns this, he asks the nurses to find another doctor.

Make a list of all of the characteristics of a good doctor. Then, using at least six of those characteristics, write a classified advertisement for a doctor to come work at the hospital in Milan. Make sure your classified ad lists the requirements for the job and explains exactly what the job entails.

CHAPTER XIV

32. Henry is deeply in love with Catherine. He didn't intend to fall in love with her, though; it just happened.

That's the way love goes sometimes. You may not go out looking for love, but you fall in love with someone just the same.

Write a short section for a self-help book about love, explaining how love can sneak up on you, even when you're not trying to find it.

CHAPTER XV

33. Three doctors examine Henry and prescribe him six months of bed rest before they begin operating on his legs. Henry balks at being immobile for so long, however, and demands to get the opinion of another doctor.

As a medical professional, write a letter of advice to a patient, explaining why it is often a good thing to get a second opinion when considering surgery.

CHAPTER XVI

34. Catherine thinks that doing whatever Henry wants is the best way to show how much she loves him. Others may think, however, that giving in to Henry's every whim is not healthy. Instead, each person should be considerate of the other.

Write a dialogue between Catherine and one of her friends, arguing whether it is better for Catherine to give in to Henry's every desire or to expect him to give in to her wishes every now and then.

35. Catherine tells Henry to think of anything except her when he is being anesthetized. She is afraid that if he thinks of her, he will talk about her when he is semi-conscious, not realizing that he's doing it.

Instead of thinking about her, Catherine tells Henry to recite poetry to himself. Write a short poem for Henry to repeat to himself as he is being anesthetized.

36. Every couple has a song that defines their relationship, a song they consider "their song." What song encapsulates the relationship between Henry and Catherine? Choose a song that Henry and Catherine can use as "their song." Then, write a short paragraph that explains why you think that song sums up their relationship.

CHAPTER XVII

37. Ferguson, one of the nurses, carries messages back and forth between Henry and Catherine. Henry continually tells her how nice she is to him, and he even asks if Ferguson will come to their wedding.

Write a wedding announcement for Henry and Catherine, explaining how they met and listing the time, date, and place for their wedding.

38. Ferguson keeps repeating that she is Henry's friend. What does it take to be someone's friend, though? Does this change when two people become friends in war?

Make a list of at least ten (10) characteristics of a friend. Then, using at least five (5) things from your list, write the lyrics for a song about friendship. Here are a couple of examples to begin your list:

- Loyalty
- Honesty
- Funny

CHAPTER XVIII

39. When Henry feels better that summer, he and Catherine go riding around the park in a carriage. They have a grand time.

In your opinion, what are some of the best things to do for fun in the summertime? Write the script for a summertime radio show, describing the best things to do to enjoy the summer.

40. Henry and Catherine order a strawberry wine for dinner. Unfortunately, the wine is not as good as they thought it would be, and they are disappointed. Many of us have bought something, anticipating that it would be great, but then becoming disappointed when it wasn't as good as we had hoped. Write an essay about a product that you wanted badly, but which left you disappointed in its performance.

41. Henry and Catherine consider themselves married, though they've had no legal wedding. Should two people be considered married if they don't go through a legal marriage ceremony?

Write a letter to your local congressperson, stating whether couples who have been together a long time should have the same rights as legally married couples.

42. Although he knows the circumstances of Catherine's fiancé's death, it still bothers Henry that Catherine loved another man. Even so, it doesn't bother Catherine that Henry has been with other women. This is a classic double standard: it is fine for men to be with many women, but it is not okay for women to be with other men. Write a web log (blog) posting for a women's rights website, saying whether this double standard still exists.

CHAPTER XIX

43. This entire book is written from Lt. Henry's point of view. He tells us his version of all the events that take place in the book. Choose one scene from this book and rewrite it so that it is told from Catherine's point of view.

44. Part of the taboo of Henry and Catherine's relationship is that they are both in the military. The worst problem, though, is that she is a nurse, and he is her patient.

Write an e-mail to the head of the Medical Board, explaining why it is O.K. for nurses and doctors to date their patients.

45. Ettore is very proud of his battle scars. He doesn't mind telling people about them, but most of the time, people find his stories boring and think Ettore is arrogant.

Write a short section for an advice column, telling people how to deal with an arrogant person.

46. Catherine pledges to keep Henry safe. She says she "know(s) she can" do that, especially because "nobody can help themselves."

Write a letter to Catherine, telling her that she is wrong about this and that each person can keep himself safe. Be sure to use at least three (3) examples to support your main idea.

CHAPTER XX

47. Henry can't stand to be in a big group of friends. He would prefer to be with just a few people at a time. What about you? Do you enjoy being part of a huge group of friends, or would you rather have a small, close knit group?

Write a brief essay, explaining whether you would rather have dozens of friends or just a few that are tried and true. Be sure to back up your choice with solid reasons.

48. Catherine feels very lonely among the big group of people. This seems strange, since the idea of being lonely involves not being a part of a group. Write a dialogue between two people, debating whether a person can truly be lonely when surrounded by a group of people. You may begin like this:

Person #1: I wonder about being lonely...

CHAPTER XXI

49. Although the British major is pessimistic about the war, he is still cheerful in general. This seems to be a conflict of views, but it works for him.

Make a list of things that can create pessimism about war. Then, make another list of things that can create optimism about war. Using three points from each list, write a comparison/contrast essay that addresses the pessimistic and optimistic views of war.

50. Henry wonders if baseball will shut down if America enters the war. After all, it seems a bit frivolous to consider games when a country is at war.

Write a note to the President of the United States, telling him that life should continue as usual, even if America enters the war in Italy. Make sure to also give him several reasons why it is important to continue as normal.

CHAPTER XXII

51. Henry and Catherine planned to go to Pallanza for their leave, but were prevented from going because Henry developed jaundice. Even so, Henry tells us how beautiful Pallanza is and how much he wanted to go there.

Based on the information Henry tells us, write a television commercial promoting tourism in Pallanza.

CHAPTER XXIII

52. Henry keeps saying what a wonderful girl Catherine is. Some people may think, though, that the fact that she is pregnant by a soldier she hardly knows is not exactly “wonderful.”

Write a short section for a study guide for *A Farewell to Arms*, describing the character of Catherine. Is she a good girl, a bad girl, or a combination of both?

53. Henry says that “wine is a grand thing” because it “makes you forget all the bad.” Henry drinks, then, to forget the bad things that are happening to him. This seems a negative action to handle a negative situation.

What are some positive things that people can do to “forget all the bad”? Write a cohesive paragraph or two explaining at least two positive things people can do to forget their troubles.

CHAPTER XXIV

54. In light of their great love affair, Henry and Catherine's parting is a bit of a letdown. Catherine just gets in the carriage and rides away, and that is that.

Write a voice over, a play-by-play account such as you hear on a sports program, recounting this scene in the book. You may want to start like this

Announcer: Here we are, folks, in drizzly Milan, Italy...

55. The tail gunner saves Henry a seat on the train, yet he knows that others are waiting for a seat. Seat saving is against the rules because it is unfair to those who have been waiting. Henry, who is still suffering from his injury, however, sees no problem in jumping ahead of the others waiting to find a place to sit down.

Think of all the rules you have to follow at school. Is there one that you find particularly inane? If you could change one school rule, which one would you change? Write an e-mail to your school's principal, asking that the school change the rule you like the least. Be sure to mention why you dislike the rule and offer an alternative to the rule.

BOOK THREE

CHAPTER XXV

56. When Henry returns to the front, the major there tells him that he should be glad he was injured when he was. It seems odd, though, to tell someone he should be glad he was injured.

Write a note to a member of your study group for English class, explaining why the major thinks it's fortunate that Henry was injured.

57. Rinaldi describes himself as a man of action: he doesn't think, he just gets in there and operates on his patients. Do you consider yourself a "do-er" like Rinaldi, or are you more of a "thinker"? Would you rather consider a situation before reacting to it? Would you prefer, instead, to just dive right in? Write a short paragraph in which you explain whether you're a contemplative person or a person of action.
58. Rinaldi says that people who don't think too much have more fun than those who do think. Do you agree or disagree with him? Write a note to Rinaldi, telling him if people who think too much are less fun than those who don't think at all. Be sure to use at least two examples to support your ideas.
59. By this point, the entire tone of the novel has changed. Some of the characters' outlooks on the war have changed, too.

Write a comparison/contrast essay, comparing the mess hall scenes in the beginning of *A Farewell to Arms* with mess hall scene in chapter XXV.

CHAPTER XXVI

60. We've met many different types of characters in this book. Some of them we've even seen in very intimate situations. Of all the characters in *A Farewell to Arms*, which one would you most like to have as a friend? Write a brief essay, selecting a character in this book with whom you think you could become friends. Your essay should include plenty of reasons why you like that character.
61. Even though the Austrians have won the war, they won't stop fighting. The priest says that this is because "no one ever stop(s) when they are winning."

We always talk of war in terms of winning or losing, but is there ever truly a winner and loser in war? Don't both sides win to a degree and lose to a degree? Write an editorial for an online news service, explaining why there are never any true winners or losers in war.

CHAPTER XXVII

62. Obviously, war can have a devastating impact on the environment. As an environmental protester, write a chant that can be used to protest the environmental damage caused by war. Remember, chants are often like songs: they usually contain lines that rhyme or have catchy slogans.
63. Although the village of Bainsizza is demolished, there are signs that help people know where they are. Create a sign to direct refugees in Bainsizza to a local refugee camp where they can find food and temporary shelter. Then, write a brief paragraph explaining your sign and the information you chose to include in it.

CHAPTER XXVIII

64. Waiting in the long line of traffic in the retreat, Henry sleeps and dreams of Catherine. As he dreams, he calls out to her, talking in his sleep.

Think of a vivid dream you have had recently. Write a cohesive paragraph, describing what happened in that dream. Then, write a second paragraph in which you take the role of a psychiatrist and try to interpret your own dream.

65. Civilian refugees join the traffic as the army retreats. Henry sees wagon after wagon pass by. Most of the refugees carry very few belongings. They only take with them their most valuable possessions.

If you had to leave your house in a hurry because of an army retreat or another emergency, which one possession of yours would you be certain to take with you? As an Italian refugee, write an entry for a customs form, explaining your most prized possession and why you chose to take that possession with you.

CHAPTER XXIX

66. When Aymo's car gets stuck in the mud, Henry orders the two sergeants to cut brush to put under the car for traction. The sergeants tell him, though, that they "have to go" and refuse to help. As the sergeants walk away, Henry, as a superior officer, commands them to come back and help get the car out of the mud. When the sergeants ignore his direct orders, Henry shoots at them. He kills one and then sends Bonello to "finish" the other.

To us, this retribution seems harsh, even brutal. Write the transcript for a military inquest into this incident, examining what Lt. Henry did and why he did it. A good way to begin may be

July 17, 1915

In the matter of the incident near Undine, Italy involving...

CHAPTER XXX

67. Despite the fact that Henry and his crew see German soldiers from the bridge, Henry is determined to get to Undine. Write a brief note of encouragement to Henry, supporting his decision to continue on to Undine.

68. Aymo is killed by sniper fire, not from the enemy, but from his fellow Italian soldiers. Why would the Italian army shoot their own men?

Write an e-mail to your English teacher, explaining why the Italian army would shoot their own soldiers. You may begin like this

I have been thinking about the scene in *A Farewell to Arms*...

69. Even though Bonello abandoned Henry and Piani, Henry says he will not give him a bad report.

As Lieutenant Henry, write the official military report that tells what happened to Bonello. You may want to begin like this:

- Incident Report
- Italian Army
- Ambulance Corps
- July 17, 1915...

CHAPTER XXXI

70. The carabinieri have orders to “discipline” any fleeing officers they encounter. They pull Italian officers out of the stream of people crossing the bridges into Undine, take them aside, question them, and then execute them. Once Henry realizes what’s going on, he runs away.

As a carabinieri, write a dispatch to the head of the Italian army, notifying him of Lieutenant Henry’s escape.

71. Henry is in a difficult spot. He knows he is wanted by the police for “fleeing” his troops, his clothes are soaked through from swimming for his life, he’s hit his head causing it to bleed, and he is still stiff from his previous leg injury. Despite the fact that all this is going on, there are some positive aspects of his situation. Write a supportive text message to Henry, listing all the positive things in his life.

CHAPTER XXXII

72. As Henry rides on the train, he has a moment to reassess his situation. Knowing now that he is not safe with the army, he must come up with another plan for survival. Besides, he now feels no obligation to the army since they have attempted to kill him.

Write a letter to Ernest Hemingway, describing where you think Lieutenant Henry should go from here.

73. The scene where Henry is called in for questioning is very similar to the scene back at the farmhouse where Henry himself kills a fleeing Italian officer. Write a short essay comparing these two scenes.

BOOK FOUR
CHAPTER XXXIII

74. The proprietor of the wine shop tells Henry he can stay at the shop. He'll be safe there, and then they can think of a way to get him out of the country. Henry doesn't want to leave Italy, though, and besides, he needs to get back to Catherine.

As Henry, write a letter to an advice columnist, asking for advice on whether to stay at the wine shop or risk traveling to find Catherine.

75. As the advice columnist, write a reply to the letter in number 74 above, giving Henry advice about whether he should stay at the wine shop or continue on to Catherine.
76. Although he obviously meets people who mean to do him harm, Henry also has many friends who are eager to protect him and help him flee Italy. Using examples of the kindness shown the Henry in this novel, write a short section for the book *What Is a Friend?* The topic of your section should be "Helping a Friend in Need."

CHAPTER XXXIV

77. When Henry finally finds Catherine and Fergy, Fergy refers to Catherine's pregnancy as a "mess" into which Henry has gotten Catherine. Catherine replies, though, that she "gets into (her) own messes."

Write a posting for a discussion board for unwed teenage parents, arguing whether unplanned pregnancy is the fault of the father, the mother, or both.

78. All of Henry's friends help him to get out of Italy, but Fergy, Catherine's friend, obviously wants her to stay. Henry's friends, too, all of them men, are quick to disconnect their friendship. When they part with Henry, if they speak at all, it is just to wish him luck. Fergy, however, clings to Catherine and cries when Catherine says she's leaving.

Some people would argue that this is a fundamental difference between men and women. Men seem to focus more on a situation and how to solve a problem than on the emotional aspects of what's happening. Women, however, tend to focus more on the emotional relationship between the people in the situation.

Examine this scene with Fergy and the earlier scene of Henry with Simmons. Then, write a dialogue in which, using these scenes as examples, two relationship experts discuss the differences in how men and women approach a friendship. Here's a good way to begin

Expert #1: It seems to me, in a friendship, women tend to...

A Farewell to Arms

79. Henry tells us that, often, a man and a woman in love will need time alone, apart from their lovers. Write a short article for a magazine about relationships, explaining why it is important for an individual in love to spend time away from his partner.
80. Henry says that “people bring so much courage to this world the world has to kill them to break them.” This certainly appears to be the case for the lives of some of our greatest civil rights leaders.

Choose a famous civil rights figure like Mahatma Ghandi or Martin Luther King, Jr., and apply Henry’s quote to that person’s life. Then, write a short essay explaining whether Henry’s quote is accurate when compared to that leader’s life.

81. After discussing the war and having to flee the country, Henry and Catherine agree to just rest and “not think about anything.”

It is, indeed, beneficial sometimes to just relax and “not think about anything.” Write a section for a brochure for a local spa, explaining the virtues of simply forgetting about every worry you have.

CHAPTER XXXV

82. Henry asks the elderly Count if he would like to live after death. For as long as man has been able to contemplate it, the concept of what happens to us after death has been a puzzle. What do you think happens to us after we die? Write a short essay, expounding your thoughts about life after death. Does it exist, or do we simply stop breathing and that is the end of it?
83. Henry and the Count discuss the value in life. In fact, the Count asks Henry what he most values in life.

In your opinion, what is the most important thing in life? Are possessions important? What about a satisfying job or family and friends? Is education the most important? Write an essay for a college application, explaining what you most value in life and describing why that thing is so important.

CHAPTER XXXVI

84. Henry and Catherine have to leave the hotel in a hurry to avoid the police. Because of this, Catherine does not have enough time to tell her friend Ferguson goodbye. As Catherine, write a note to Ferguson telling her what happened and thanking her for her friendship.

CHAPTER XXXVII

85. Henry is the very epitome of determination. Just look at his travels from the front to Catherine and now from Italy to Switzerland.

Write a short interview with Henry for a motivational website. Make sure that you include some of Henry's daring deeds as examples of how he does whatever it takes to get the job done.

86. Henry has been through so much, but now he's almost in Switzerland. Even so, he remarks that if the custom guards were really looking for him, he'd be easy to see out in the middle of the lake.

After all they've been through, do you think Henry and Catherine will make their home in Switzerland? How will this book end?

Write a posting for an online discussion board for your class, detailing what you think will happen to Henry and Catherine.

87. When the customs officers arrest Henry and Catherine, Henry is forced to lie about why they are in Switzerland. All of us learned as young children that lying is bad. Write the text for a children's book, telling preschool children about the consequences of lying.

BOOK FIVE
CHAPTER XXXVIII

88. To pass the time in the mountains, Henry and Catherine go hiking. They find walking outdoors “invigorating.” Write a blog posting for an outdoor life website, telling readers about the great benefits of hiking.

89. Henry almost always reads the morning papers. Most of the English and American papers have their advertisements blackened out by censors, though, to prevent the enemy from communicating through them.

Imagine that you’re an enemy spy and write a classified advertisement that contains a code about the Italian army’s retreat.

90. Catherine’s doctor has told her that drinking beer will help her baby. We know differently, however. If a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, she could severely damage her unborn child.

Write a conversation between yourself and Catherine in which you advise her not to drink. Tell her why drinking while she’s pregnant is not a good idea. You may begin like this

You: Hi, Catherine.

Catherine: Hi.

You: Listen, I’d like to talk to you...

A Farewell to Arms

91. Catherine wants to get officially married for the benefit of her baby, but not until she is thin again. If she marries Henry, Catherine will also become an American, even though she was born in England.

What does it mean to be an American? Does being an American have more to do with where you're born or with how you feel about the United States? Write a letter to a pen pal overseas, describing what it means to be an American.

92. Henry thinks about his friend Rinaldi and wonders where he is and how he's doing. As Henry, write a postcard to Rinaldi, telling him what has happened to you and asking how he's doing.
93. As Rinaldi, answer the postcard from your friend Henry, telling him what you've been up to since you've last seen him.

CHAPTER XXXIX

94. Catherine and Henry discuss the chamois hunters. Henry tells Catherine that these hunters wear earrings to help them hear better. This is a kind of superstition that the chamois hunters believe.

Make a list of 10 other familiar superstitions. Here are a few superstitions to get you started:

- Breaking a mirror brings 7 years bad luck
- If your nose itches, someone is talking about you
- If you shiver, someone has walked across the ground that will become your grave

95. Henry jokes that he would love to have a tail like a fox. If you could have any one trait of an animal, what would you choose? Write a brief essay, explaining what kind of animal trait you would like to have and why you think it would be great to have that trait.

CHAPTER XL

96. In order to be closer to the hospital, Catherine and Henry leave the mountain chateau and move to the city. Although Henry worries, Catherine tells him they “can be as much alone in a bigger town.”

Do you think it is better to live in a city or in the country? As a real estate agent, write a presentation for a seminar for first time homebuyers, telling them if it is better to live in the city or in the country.

CHAPTER XLI

97. Even though he worked in the army as an ambulance driver and has seen all kinds of injuries, Henry cannot bear to watch the doctor operate on Catherine. Write a short e-mail to a classmate, explaining why Henry acts this way.
98. It is always painful for a couple to lose a child, particularly when the child is born dead. Create a sympathy card for Henry and Catherine, offering condolences on the death of their son.
99. The last time Catherine talks to Henry, she tells him that she meant to write him a letter in case anything should happen to her. She never gets a chance to write this letter, however. As Catherine, write a letter to Henry, telling him how much you love him.

FOLLOW-UP

100. Earlier, you were asked to predict what would happen at the end of this novel. Now that you've finished reading it, compare your prediction about how the book would end with its actual ending. Were the two similar? How did they differ?
101. Think of any questions you have about this book: the characters, the setting, the reality of war. Write an e-mail to Ernest Hemingway, asking him any questions you have about *A Farewell to Arms*. Your e-mail should consist of no fewer than two paragraphs.
102. Did you enjoy *A Farewell to Arms*? Imagine that this book is a choice for a friend to read for his English class. Would you recommend this book to him or her?

Write a paragraph in which you tell your friend if you liked or disliked this book, and offering specific reasons to support your opinion of the book.

103. Every good writer wants his audience to learn something from his work. We should be fundamentally changed by reading good literature. What do you think Ernest Hemingway wants us to learn from *A Farewell to Arms*? If he were here today, what do you think he would tell us that he wants us to understand by reading this book?

Test

1. Lieutenant Henry is fighting with the Italian army, even though he is
 - A. a conscientious dissenter of the war.
 - B. British.
 - C. American.
 - D. a civilian.

2. Catherine was once engaged. What happened to her fiancé?
 - A. He left her for another woman.
 - B. He was killed in the war.
 - C. He went back to England.
 - D. He joined the Austrian army.

3. In the army, Frederic Henry works as
 - A. an ambulance driver.
 - B. a doctor.
 - C. a nurse.
 - D. a sharpshooter.

4. Lieutenant Henry is injured when
 - A. he is shot by an Austrian guard.
 - B. he is in a car accident.
 - C. his ambulance hits a land mine.
 - D. a mortar strikes the dugout where he is eating dinner.

5. Lieutenant Henry and Catherine have a very close relationship. It is so close, in fact, that
 - A. even without a legal wedding, they consider themselves husband and wife.
 - B. their friends all comment on their love affair.
 - C. Henry takes Catherine home to meet his family.
 - D. Catherine gives up her British citizenship for Henry.

A Farewell to Arms

6. Of all of his comrades in the army, Lieutenant Henry is probably closest to
 - A. Benello.
 - B. the priest.
 - C. Aymo.
 - D. Rinaldi.
7. What is Lieutenant Henry's initial reaction to Catherine after they meet?
 - A. He falls in love immediately.
 - B. He tells her to leave him alone.
 - C. He likes her, but he thinks she's a little crazy.
 - D. He knows that their relationship will not last forever.
8. Catherine's friend Fergy liked Lieutenant Henry when she first met him, but later, she is very angry with him. This is because
 - A. he is taking Catherine to America.
 - B. he deserts the army.
 - C. he spurns Catherine.
 - D. he got Catherine pregnant.
9. Which of the following people does not help Henry escape to Switzerland?
 - A. Aymo
 - B. the wine shop owner
 - C. Catherine
 - D. the hotel barman
10. Lieutenant Henry tells Count Greffi that the thing he values most in life is
 - A. a good time.
 - B. fine wine.
 - C. his reputation.
 - D. someone he loves.

A Farewell to Arms

11. Which of the following of Catherine and Lt. Henry's actions is considered the most reprehensible by the society in which they live?
 - A. a nurse dating her patient
 - B. an unmarried couple having a baby
 - C. a patient drinking in his hospital bed
 - D. escaping war-torn Italy for Switzerland
12. Frederic Henry is a man of
 - A. cowardice.
 - B. determination.
 - C. great education.
 - D. few words.
13. During the retreat, the battle police appear to pull all officers aside for questioning, when in fact they are
 - A. robbing them.
 - B. reorganizing the army.
 - C. using them to bait the German army.
 - D. executing them for abandoning their troops.
14. Which of the following animals mostly closely represents Catherine's personality?
 - A. a piranha
 - B. a mouse
 - C. a tiger
 - D. a chicken
15. Which of the following best defines the love affair between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine?
 - A. quiet and sedate
 - B. brief, but passionate
 - C. a frivolous fling
 - D. carefree

A Farewell to Arms

16. Lieutenant Henry's killing the fleeing army sergeants proves that
 - A. Henry is mean and vindictive.
 - B. Henry doesn't value human life.
 - C. Henry can't stand anyone who says he'll help and then leaves.
 - D. Even in a retreat, soldiers must obey their superiors.
17. Lieutenant Henry faces a lot of adversity, but the most devastating thing to him is probably
 - A. Catherine's death
 - B. quitting the army
 - C. being injured
 - D. being separated from his family in America
18. The title of this novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, refers to
 - A. Henry's leaving Italy to return to America.
 - B. the fact that the Italian officers have to surrender their weapons to the Austrians.
 - C. Lieutenant Henry's leaving the army and losing Catherine.
 - D. Lieutenant Henry's war injury.
19. If we were to ask Lieutenant Henry how he feels about war, he would probably say something similar to,
 - A. "Keep fighting until the bitter end."
 - B. "There are no winners in war."
 - C. "War makes men out of boys."
 - D. "Wars are only won through diplomacy."
20. Of the following choices, which statement best states the main idea of this novel?
 - A. It doesn't matter if you are married as long as you're in love.
 - B. War is romantic.
 - C. Enjoy today, because tomorrow is not promised to us.
 - D. With hope, we can overcome all obstacles.

A Farewell to Arms

Test
Student Answer Sheet

Name: _____

1. _____

11. _____

2. _____

12. _____

3. _____

13. _____

4. _____

14. _____

5. _____

15. _____

6. _____

16. _____

7. _____

17. _____

8. _____

18. _____

9. _____

19. _____

10. _____

20. _____

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A Farewell to Arms

Test
Answer Key

1. __C__

11. __B__

2. __B__

12. __B__

3. __A__

13. __D__

4. __D__

14. __C__

5. __A__

15. __B__

6. __D__

16. __D__

7. __C__

17. __A__

8. __D__

18. __C__

9. __A__

19. __B__

10. __D__

20. __C__

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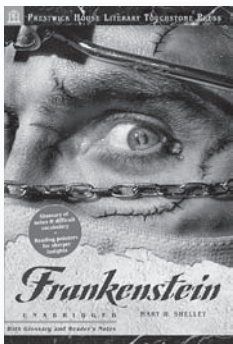
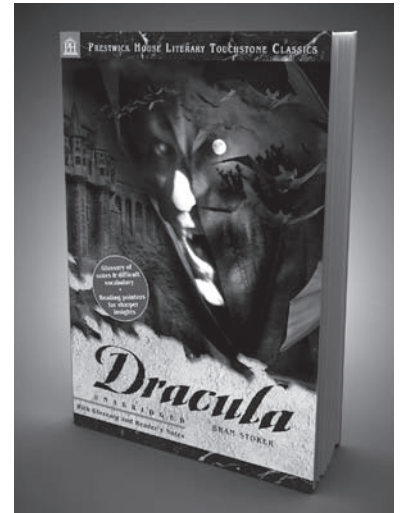
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