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Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

The Sun Also Rises

by Ernest Hemingway

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The Sun Also Rises

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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Response Journal

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.

Class Record Sheet

Student Name								
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Reference Sheet

Date_____

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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?

Response Journal

29. Jake and Bill have dinner at Madam Lecomte's, once a quiet, local restaurant that is now a tourist attraction. Imagine you live in an area with a high tourism rate and describe the advantages and disadvantages of living there.
30. Mike and Brett seem to share taste for a similar lifestyle, but whether or not this is good for them is yet to be seen. Discuss what you think is the importance of common likes and dislikes in a relationship. What factor do you believe is the most important: love, respect, common interests, or something else?

Chapter Nine

31. When Mike asks if he and Brett can go along to Spain, Jake replies, "It would be grand." Considering the situation between Jake and Brett, do you think this statement is made with sarcasm, relief, disdain, or some other emotion? Explain.
32. After learning that Brett went to San Sebastian with Robert, Jake responds with a mere, "Congratulations." What do you suppose Jake is thinking? Does he have a legitimate reason to be upset with Robert?
33. Explain to your friend who doesn't understand why the upcoming trip to Spain may be awkward for Jake, Brett, Robert, and Mike.

Chapter Ten

34. The guard at the Spanish border dismisses the old man and states, "Oh, he'll just wade across the stream." Do you suppose this response stems from a lack of concern or his disgust for illegal crossing? Why?
35. "Cohn had been rather nervous ever since we had met at Bayonne." Why does Robert conceal details of the trip when he doesn't know of Jake's feelings for Brett? How should Robert tell Jake?

The Sun Also Rises

- 36. We have all had an experience similar to that when Bill gets upset with Robert about his “superior” attitude. Write about a time when you had to deal with someone with an arrogant attitude. How did they make you feel, and what was your response?
- 37. Can you recall a time when you set out to do something and failed to accomplish your goal? As a result, did you feel more determined to try again or did you give up on the entire idea? How did your decision make you feel?
- 38. Part of Jake’s aggressive stance toward Robert comes from jealousy, while another portion is from misplaced self-contempt. Explain which factor you believe contributes more to Jake’s frustration and why.

Chapter Eleven

- 39. Have you or someone you know ever met a person from another country either face-to-face or on the Internet? What differences did you discern in regard to the other person’s culture and beliefs? What similarities?
- 40. Compose a letter introducing yourself to another student in your grade who lives in Spain. Include items such as interests, family traditions, and what a typical school day entails for you.
- 41. The innkeeper attributes high rates to the “big season,” even though Jake and Bill are the only guests. Relate a time when you or someone you know was taken advantage of through a purchase or a deal. Was the situation rectified?

Chapter Twelve

42. Bill explains that in New York, expatriates are characterized as ruined drunks who are obsessed with sex and who write nothing worth publishing. Write about a stereotype that exists today and how you think it began. Why do you suppose people tend to group others stereotypically?
43. Bill's extended joke on the theme of sex seems to be an attempt to relieve tension on the topic of homosexuality. Considering this story takes place during the early twentieth century, how much influence do you think the beliefs of that time had on the culture's mentality? Explain your response.
44. Jake and Bill are open with each other and share a bonding experience when Jake reveals his feelings for Brett. Relate how the fishing trip demonstrates that Jake can find happiness without Brett.
45. The peace Jake derives from nature gives an insight into what he considers the "good life." Describe your viewpoint of the "good life" and what it entails.

Chapter Thirteen

46. "Aficionados" are an elite group of people with a true passion for something, in this case, for bull-fighting. Have you ever recognized this kind of passion for something, whether a sport, hobby, or art, in either yourself or someone else? Write about the interest.

The Sun Also Rises

47. Complete this dialogue:
Friend: Montoya is lucky to have so many good bull-fighters stay at his hotel.
You: Yes, but only those with aficion matter to Montoya. The rest of the fighters are of no consequence.
Friend: That's what I don't understand. Why would Montoya throw out signed photographs of celebrity fighters if he has such a love for bull-fighting?
You:
48. "Montoya could forgive anything of a bull-fighter who had aficion. He could forgive attacks of nerves, panic, bad unexplainable actions, all sorts of lapses." Is there anyone in your life to whom you hold such a high esteem? Why do you have so much respect for this person?
49. Look at the comment about forgiveness from the previous question. Do you know of someone famous, in literature, or in popular culture, who seems to be accepted, even idolized, despite public flaws? Explain why you think this sort of worshipping exists.
50. Mike makes harsh and insulting remarks to Robert in front of everyone, thus creating discomfort for the group. Do you feel Mike's behavior is justified, or should he have waited for a better time? Does his attack stem more from anger, humiliation, drunkenness, or something else?
51. The dinner atmosphere is pleasant and Jake admits, "Under the wine I lost the disgusted feeling and was happy. It seemed they were all such nice people." Give a brief description of how you think Jake views Brett, Mike, Robert, and Bill in regard to character and behavior.

Chapter Fourteen

52. Jake feels as if he has been getting something for nothing in his friendship with Brett, and the payment is yet to come. Using your own words, interpret what Jake means by “the bill always came.” What do you suppose his payment will be?
53. Jake develops a new philosophy: “Enjoying living was learning to get your money’s worth and knowing when you had it.” Do you agree or disagree that, for most people, the second half of this statement tends to be the hardest part to learn? Why?
54. Watching Robert suffer from Mike’s cruel treatment makes Jake feel both satisfied and guilty. Describe a time when you witnessed or heard something that made you happy, but immediately after you became ashamed of your initial response. What led you to feel that way?

Chapter Fifteen

55. The shop owner gives Jake a good price on the wine skins after he learns that Jake does not intend to sell them later for a profit, displaying the idea that consumerism is beginning to affect the fiesta. Relate an incident when you or someone you know haggled with a merchant over the price of merchandise. Have you ever felt you were cheated on a purchase?
56. Compare the drunken revelry of the fiesta to the social party binges in Paris. What differences do you find regarding tradition and meaning?
57. After viewing the spectacle in the arena, Jake explains the after-effect as “that disturbed emotional feeling that always comes after a bull-fight, and the feeling of elation that comes after a good bull-fight.” Describe what these contrasting reactions mean to you.

The Sun Also Rises

58. Pedro Romero is an innocent, beautiful, and genuine boy in Jake's eyes. In what way is this symbolic of the time before the war?
59. Do you view bull-fighting as a sport, an art, or a combination of both? Explain your answer. Perhaps you view it as horrible. Explain that also.

Chapter Sixteen

60. Montoya is pleased with Jake's advice to withhold the American ambassador's invitation and states, "They start this Grand Hotel business and in one year they're through." Assume you are Montoya; write a brief letter to Pedro explaining the reasons behind your decision.
61. In regard to Mike's repeated assault on Robert, do you view Robert as a scapegoat or as a guilty party of Mike's accusations, and why?
62. Do you think it is fair of Brett to ask Jake for help with Pedro? If you were Jake, how would you respond and what would you do?
63. For a bull-fighter to speak English, we are told, "It would be bad. The people would not like it." What do you suppose is the reason? Can you think of any other culture-specific event or tradition that does not welcome change?

Chapter Seventeen

64. Robert compromises his value system by using his boxing abilities against someone for the first time outside a ring. What do you believe distresses him more: the fact that he hit a friend, or the realization that Brett is lost?

Response Journal

65. Running with the bulls is obviously a dangerous feat, but apparently some people find the thrill irresistible. Where do you suppose the appeal lies? Would you ever engage in the event and why or why not?
66. After beating up Pedro, Robert's repeated gesture to shake hands is a pathetic attempt to reclaim the values he has destroyed. In your opinion, what does Robert's value system of good sportsmanship entail, how has he lost those values, and what can he do to restore them, if possible?
67. How probable do you think it is that Brett's current treatment of men stems from her past abusive marriage?

Chapter Eighteen

68. Brett's failed attempt to be religious displays her loss of faith and she tells Jake, "Never does me any good. I've never gotten anything I prayed for." To what do you most attribute Brett's loss of faith: her disastrous marriage, the war, or something else? Explain your answer.
69. When passed on the stairs Montoya "bowed and did not smile." All of us have had the experience of having been snubbed by someone. How does it make you feel when it happens to you?
70. Bull-fighting has its set of noble features and has a way of eroticizing violence. In the case of Pedro's fighting style, explain how bull-fighting symbolizes ritual warfare.

Chapter Nineteen

71. Why do you suppose Brett refuses to conform to traditional female roles in both behavior and appearance? Does her boyish appearance symbolize anything to you?
72. Describe what you think Brett means when she tells Jake she had to leave Pedro before she ruined him. Is the corruption she mentions in reference to age, profession, or something else?
73. Brett resolves to return to Mike and she tells Jake, "He's so damned nice and he's so awful. He's my sort of thing." What do you suppose she means by this?
74. Has anything really changed between Brett and Jake? How can you tell?
75. Are you satisfied with the novel's conclusion? Why or why not?

Response Journal

W r a p - u p

76. What meaning or symbolism can you find in the title, *The Sun Also Rises*?
77. Assuming Jake and Brett each go their separate ways, write a dialogue that might take place ten years later when they run into each other on the street.
78. Who, and for what reason, do you consider the hero of the novel?
79. Which character do you relate to the most, and for which character do you have the most sympathy? Give your reasons for each.
80. Since the novel's point of view is entirely from Jake's perspective, how much influence do you think this has on the story?

Test

1. Cohn learns to box at Princeton because
 - A. he knows there is a war pending, and he want to be as prepared as possible.
 - B. he needs to defend himself from the terrible physical abuse he receives from his fellow students because he is Jewish.
 - C. he wants the inner comfort of knowing he has the ability to knock down anyone who is mean to him.
 - D. his girlfriend is impressed by boxing, and Cohn allows her to direct his life.

2. Brett's short hair unusual for its time and is meant to imply that she
 - A. has the sexual habits and freedom of a man.
 - B. served in the war and learned to simplify her life.
 - C. is so beautiful that she does not need an elaborate hairstyle to attract men.
 - D. takes her beauty for granted and puts forth no effort to enhance her natural attributes.

3. Brett's relationship with Jake is ironic because
 - A. Brett finally finds a man she can love, but he is impotent and unable to meet her physical needs.
 - B. Brett loves Jake, but is still attracted to other men, including Cohn.
 - C. Jake introduces her to Cohn and encourages a relationship between them.
 - D. Jake finds his friendship with Brett painful, because she sleeps with so many different men.

4. Which of the following incidents from the story best illustrates the concept that Jake is a realist, who tries to face facts and find practical solutions to life's problems?
 - A. Jake asks Brett to live with him, hoping she will accept.
 - B. Jake tells Cohn that Brett is not right for him, because she is engaged to Mike and has married men she did not love twice before.
 - C. Jake likes to drink.
 - D. Jake agrees to let Cohn join him on his trip to Spain.

Response Journal

5. Hemingway's writing style is characterized by
 - A. short, simple sentences.
 - B. dialogue to reveal characterization and motivation.
 - C. lengthy descriptive prose passages.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

 6. Hemingway criticizes the way American tourists
 - A. buy stupid souvenirs.
 - B. are unable to fully appreciate bullfighting.
 - C. sacrifice their own comforts to enjoy the beauty of the foreign countryside.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

 7. Jake believes that the Catholic church
 - A. tries to help people find direction in their lives, but is often inadequate.
 - B. provides a wonderful atmosphere for praying, but is not enough to help Jake pray.
 - C. might be able to help Brett live with him and accept his disability.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

 8. The fishing trip Jake and Bill take serves as a
 - A. respite from Jake's troubles and a way of renewing his strength.
 - B. way for Hemingway to show how peaceful Jake is away from Brett.
 - C. lesson in how to have a good time without women.
 - D. source of background information on Jake's war experiences.

 9. Jake is considered an aficionado because
 - A. he can recognize the truly good bullfighters.
 - B. Montoya gives him special treatment at the hotel and puts his hands on Jake's shoulders, a gesture one aficionado extends to another aficionado.
 - C. he vacations in Spain every other year to attend the bullfights.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.
-

The Sun Also Rises

10. The steers which are used to quiet the bulls is similar to Jake's life with his friends because
- A. like the steers, Jake is impotent.
 - B. like the steers, Jake needs to make friends, even if he has the potential to hurt them
 - C. Jake, like the bull who gores the steer, fixes Brett up with Romero.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.
11. What does the following passage from the novel represent?
- “Eat? Why didn't you say eat? I thought you just wanted me to get up for fun. Eat? Fine. Now you're reasonable. You go out and dig some more worms and I'll be right down.”
- A. satire, poking fun at digging worms.
 - B. humor, making a joke out of getting up early to have fun.
 - C. dialogue to reveal Bill's love of sleeping in.
 - D. local color, to describe a typical morning on a fishing trip.
12. Romero is a great bullfighter because
- A. he works in the terrain of the bull most of the time.
 - B. he tires the bull without using any tricks, only skill.
 - C. he is an expert at picking out the calmest bulls.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.
13. Cohn leaves Spain because
- A. Romero defeats him in boxing through courage and determination.
 - B. Brett is sleeping with Romero and tells him to leave.
 - C. although Jake is his only friend, Jake still sets Brett up with Romero.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

Response Journal

14. Brett breaks up with Romero because
- A. none of her affairs last very long and it is time for him to go.
 - B. she is incapable of loving anyone.
 - C. she will only hurt him and she knows it is better for Romero if they separate.
 - D. her money has run out and she doesn't want to ask Romero for financial assistance.
 - E. Both A and B.
15. Which of the following statements best explains the significance of the title of the novel?
- A. The title of the novel is about the old being replaced by the new. The old day is replaced by the new sunrise just as the old bullfighter is replaced by the new hero.
 - B. The death of a day is followed by a sunrise. Jake's love for Brett and the acceptance of the impossibility of that love succeeding will be followed by a different kind of life for both of them.
 - C. The sunrise is one of the most beautiful sights in nature. Jake is only happy when he is fishing, swimming, or enjoying nature. The title of the story suggests that the road to happiness in life is through communing with nature.
 - D. Brett spends the night with many men, but they must understand that tomorrow is another day and means another man for Brett. They can enjoy her at night, but when the sun rises, they must move on with their lives.
 - E. Both A and B.
16. Bill is a good friend for Jake because
- A. he is sensitive to Jake's feelings, but also amusing to be around.
 - B. he does not burden Jake with his problems. If Bill has problems, the reader is unaware of them.
 - C. he is able to appreciate the foreign people and countryside, unlike the American tourists who are only interested in their own comforts.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

The Sun Also Rises

17. Jake becomes annoyed with Cohn mainly because
- A. Cohn is behaving like a lovesick boy since the night he spent with Brett.
 - B. Cohn tags along after Jake and his friends.
 - C. Cohn acts superior and more intelligent than anyone else.
 - D. Cohn lies about his war experience.
18. When traveling in France, Jake
- A. is reminded of home.
 - B. leaves big tips to be remembered and treated well.
 - C. is happy because no one knows him in France, so he can pretend to be a whole man.
 - D. is glad Brett dislikes France, because he never runs into any of her old boyfriends there.
19. Cohn is more of an idealist than a realist because
- A. he insists on believing he has a chance to win Brett back.
 - B. he fantasizes about things he reads in books like *The Purple Land*.
 - C. he imagines what life can be rather than living life as it is.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

Test
Student Answer Sheet

Name: _____

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Response Journal

An Annotated Bibliography on Response Journals

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**Test
Answer Key**

1. C

11. A

2. A

12. B

3. A

13. D

4. B

14. E

5. D

15. C

6. A

16. E

7. B

17. E

8. D

18. A

9. A

19. B

10. D

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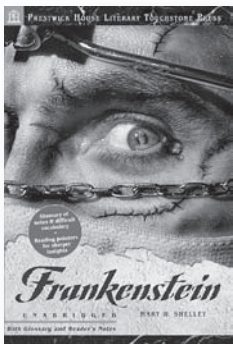
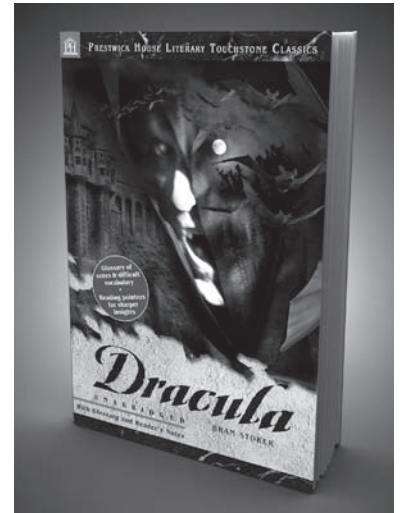
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