

THE SUN ALSO RISES

1. This was written in 1926, the post-WWI era; how does that time period influence Hemingway's story and writing style or was he just venturing off in a new direction? What is his writing style; does it suit the storyline?
2. The title *The Sun Also Rises* comes from a scriptural passage in Ecclesiastes: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose." What does it mean and does it support Hemingway's story? why/why not?
3. The novel takes place in the 'roaring 20s'; and the 'Lost Generation' about which he writes is considered decadent and damaged. Are they irretrievably lost? In spite of the implied hope in the title, is there any hope given in the story? Why Paris vs. New York?
4. The novel is a *roman à clef*: the story is derived from real people and real events. Do you find that the characters as Hemingway depicts them are real? Is Brett a believable character? Can you feel sympathy for her and is she truly liberated?
5. Hemingway is accused of being anti-Semitic because of his portrayal of Robert Cohn. Would you agree/disagree? Why?
6. Compare and contrast the protagonist, Jake Barnes, and his foil, Robert Cohn.
7. Hemingway interjects sports in the novel: boxing, fishing, bullfighting. And in the midst of the story the guys take a fishing trip. What is the purpose of that? Is Jake and Bill's fishing trip to Burguete relevant to the epigraph from Ecclesiastes?
8. How would *The Sun Also Rises* be similar or different if narrated by a character other than Jake? How would Cohn or Brett or Mike tell the story?
9. If Hemingway's novel is about "the lost generation," do we conclude that all five of the persons who have gone to Pamplona are lost? Is there evidence that moral or spiritual cleansing ever takes place in the novel? The bullfight serves what purpose to the story?
10. At the time it was written, Hemingway was considered America's greatest author. Why do you think that is?

[question ideas from Cliff Notes, shmoop.com, and litlovers.com]