

A Farewell to Arms

Study Guide Student Edition

BOOK ONE

Chapter I

The following instructions are for questions 1 - 4.

Hemingway earned the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954 because of his unique writing style. Each of the following passages from the first chapter in this story illustrate a different element of his writing style. Decide which element or elements of style are present in the passage and briefly defend your choice.

Hemingway's style:

- His sentences and vocabulary are simple and spare, departing from the flowery writing style of the past.
 - Hemingway's writing is full of sensory details, which are presented to the reader as facts, just as a newspaper presents the facts in a story.
 - His writing style changes to reflect the changing states of mind of the characters. Look for this change when the inner feelings of a character are presented as a "stream of consciousness," or when the character is drunk. At these times, Hemingway breaks away from his normal simple sentence structure to include long, flowing sentences. These sentences often have both rhythm and repetition to help the reader experience the feelings of the character.
 - Although his sentences are often choppy and simple, Hemingway effectively uses understatement to help the reader understand the atmosphere of war and the feelings of his characters.
1. "At the start of the winter came the permanent rain and with the rain came the cholera. But it was checked and in the end only seven thousand died of it in the army."
 2. "There was fighting in the mountains and at night we could see the flashes from the artillery. In the dark it was like summer lightning, but the nights were cold and there was not the feeling of a storm coming."

3. “The trunks of the trees too were dusty and the leaves fell early that year and we saw the troops marching along the road and the dust rising and leaves, stirred by the breeze, falling and the soldiers marching and afterward the road bare and white except for the leaves.”

4. “There was fighting for that mountain too, but it was not successful, and in the fall when the rains came the leaves all fell from the chestnut trees and the branches were bare and the trunks black with rain.”

Chapter II

1. How does the reader know that Frederic Henry is an officer in the army?

2. Briefly describe the relationship between the priest and the officers in the bawdy house. What does this relationship suggest to the reader about the impact of the war on human values?

3. At the end of this chapter Frederic Henry is going on leave. He is given the option of staying with the lieutenant’s family, going to Naples to be with beautiful girls, or going to the priest’s hometown of Abruzzi. Which of these three options do you think Frederic Henry will select? Support your answer with incidents from the story.

Chapter III

1. Briefly identify Rinaldi. Be sure to include Frederic Henry's opinion of him.

Answer questions 2 and 3 using the following passage from the story.

“I had wanted to go to Abruzzi. I had gone to no place where the roads were frozen and hard as iron, where it was clear cold and dry and the snow was dry and powdery and hare-tracks in the snow and the peasants took off their hats and called you Lord and there was good hunting. I had gone to no such place but to the smoke of cafes and nights when the room whirled and you needed to look at the wall to make it stop, nights in bed, drunk, when you knew that was all there was, and the strange excitement of waking and not knowing who it was with you, and the world all unreal in the dark and so exciting that you must resume again unknowing and not caring in the night, sure that this was all and all and all and not caring.”

2. What elements of Hemingway's unique style, as described in Chapter I, Question 1, are present in this passage?
3. Why didn't Frederic Henry go to Abruzzi as the priest suggests? What does Frederic Henry's behavior on leave tell the reader about the impact of the war on his moral values?
4. What does the priest “know” in the following passage from the book? “He had always known what I did not know and what, when I learned it, I was always able to forget.”

Chapter IV

1. How does Frederic Henry feel when he discovers the ambulances and their drivers continued to function in his absence?
2. Briefly describe Catherine Barkley. What is the significance of the riding stick she carries?
3. What evidence is there that Catherine is disillusioned by the war?

Chapter V

1. What new information does the reader learn about Frederic Henry's background in this chapter?
2. Define "carabinieri." What is going to happen when the new road over the mountain is completed?
3. What does Catherine mean when she says the women at the front are on "very special behavior"?
4. What are Frederic Henry's goals concerning Catherine at the beginning of the evening? How does Catherine confuse him, so that at the end of the chapter he refers to her as his "friend"?

Chapter VI

1. What is ironic about the way Frederic Henry is required to dress?
2. Why does Catherine give Frederic Henry a hard time for not contacting her for three days?
3. What evidence is there in this chapter that Catherine is not crazy, but only playing a game with Frederic Henry? What kind of game is she playing?

Chapter VII

1. How does Frederic Henry try to help the soldier who is limping along the side of the road? What do the efforts on the soldier's behalf say about Frederic Henry's attitude toward the war?

Use the following information about Hemingway's typical hero to answer questions 2 and 3.

Hemingway's heroes have many recognizable and consistent traits. These include:

- a general loss of faith in conventional morality; the Hemingway hero is cut off from the traditional values of home and family.
- the ability and desire to do his job well.
- the belief that no matter how much trouble life gives a person, he must never let his suffering show, except for fears, which surface at night.
- a belief that the world is generally a cruel place.
- he demonstrates that men and women can find moments of meaning and happiness despite the cruelty of the world.

2. Find a passage in this chapter which proves that Frederic Henry feels cut off from his home in the States.

3. Select one of the other traits common to Hemingway heroes and prove that Frederic Henry possesses it.

4. Locate a passage in this chapter that demonstrates Hemingway's use of stream of consciousness.

5. At the end of the chapter, Frederic Henry goes to visit Catherine, but she is unavailable. How does he feel about Catherine at this point in the story?

Chapter VIII

1. Why does Catherine give Frederic Henry the St. Anthony medal? How does she feel about him at this point in the story?
2. What literary technique is Hemingway using in the following excerpt from the story? What is implied in this passage about the effectiveness of the church during wartime?

“The saint hung down on the outside of my uniform and I undid the throat of my tunic, unbuttoned the shirt collar and dropped him in under the shirt. I felt him in his metal box against my chest while we drove. Then I forgot about him. After I was wounded I never found him. Some one probably got it at one of the dressing stations.”
3. In what ways does Frederic Henry’s description of the scenery change as he gets near the battle area?

Chapter IX

1. Why do you think the ambulance drivers stop talking when Frederic Henry enters the dugout?
2. In what ways does Frederic's opinion on how to stop the fighting differ from the opinions of the other ambulance drivers?
3. Find a sentence in the description of the shelling which illustrates Hemingway's stream of consciousness style of writing.
4. Why does Frederic Henry get his wounds dressed before the other men?
5. Hemingway includes two horrible deaths in this chapter. Briefly describe these deaths and speculate on why they are so graphically presented at this point in the story.

Chapter X

1. How does Frederic Henry's conversation with Rinaldi show Henry's changing views concerning the war, women, and the church?

Chapter XI

1. What does the priest mean when he says to Frederic that the latter is "...nearer the officers than you are to the men"?
2. Find a passage in the chapter where the priest defines love.
3. Some critics believe Abruzzi represents Hemingway's vision of paradise. Cite incidents from this chapter to prove or disprove this theory.
4. Sometimes foreshadowing is very subtle. What future event do you think Hemingway foreshadows in this chapter?

Chapter XII

1. Find an example of understatement in this chapter where Frederic Henry coolly and simply details the horrors of war.
2. Why is he going to Milan? What surprise will be waiting for him there?

BOOK TWO

Chapter XIII

1. Briefly identify Miss Van Campen, Mrs. Walker, and Miss Gage. In what ways are they different?
2. List three requests Frederic Henry makes his first day and night at the new hospital.
3. Review the characteristics of a typical Hemingway hero listed in Question 2 from Chapter 7 of Book 1. List at least two things Henry does in this Chapter that helps to establish him as an example of a typical Hemingway hero.

Chapter XIV

1. Define the literary technique “comic relief” and find an example of comic relief in this chapter.
2. How do you think Miss Gage feels about Miss Barkley’s arrival at the hospital?
3. What happens between Frederic Henry and Miss Barkley the night she arrives at the hospital? Why do you think Miss Barkley let it happen?

Chapter XV

1. How does Henry convince the house doctor to let Dr. Valentini examine him?
2. What evidence is there that Henry likes Dr. Valentini?

Chapter XVI

1. What evidence is there in this chapter that the war is all around Frederic and Catherine?
2. The character of Catherine is a very controversial one among Hemingway's critics. Some insist that she is too ready to please Frederic, which makes the character unbelievable. Others think Hemingway is trying to show the blending of wills that takes place when two people are truly in love. Write one or two paragraphs about Catherine. Do you think her actions in this chapter are believable? What do you think she might know about life that Frederic has yet to learn? Cite incidents or use quotations from the chapter to support your answer.

Chapter XVII

1. List the three other patients admitted to the hospital. Why is it a good thing for Henry that there are more patients?
2. What possible future events are hinted at in this chapter, which help Hemingway to maintain the reader's interest in the story?

Chapter XVIII

1. Why don't Catherine and Frederic get legally married?
2. Frederic and Catherine are in love so they ignore the dangers around them. List two potential problems they know they may experience in the future, but are ignoring so they can be together.

Chapter XIX

1. Briefly identify Mr. and Mrs. Meyers. Why doesn't Catherine like Ettore Moretti?
2. "All right. I'm afraid of the rain because sometimes I see me dead in it."
"No."
"And sometimes I see you dead in it."
"That's more likely."
"No, it's not, darling. Because I can keep you safe. I know I can. But nobody can help themselves."

How do you think Catherine plans to keep Frederick safe? What does she mean when she says "nobody can help themselves"? Why do you think the rain is so depressing for Catherine?

Chapter XX

1. One of the major themes in this book is the impact the war has on the values of the characters. What does the incident where Catherine and Frederic bet on Light for Me reveal about their values?
2. Aside from the crooked betting, what does Catherine dislike about the track?

Chapter XXI

1. Hemingway is famous for using simple sentences to convey important meanings. Briefly identify the speaker of each of the following excerpts from the chapter and explain their meanings.

The last country to realize they were cooked would win the war.

But life isn't hard to manage when you've nothing to lose.

They love each other and they misunderstand on purpose and they fight and then suddenly they aren't the same one.

2. Review the characteristics of a Hemingway hero (Chapter 7 Question 2). Which of those traits does Catherine demonstrate when she tells Frederic about the baby?
3. In your opinion, how well do you think Frederic handles the news that Catherine is pregnant? Why do you think she keeps her pregnancy a secret for three months?

Chapter XXII

1. The theme of human values and morality is found throughout this novel. What do you think this chapter is saying about the consequences of Frederic's excessive drinking?

Chapter XXIII

1. “We crossed the far end of the square and looked back at the cathedral. It was fine in the mist.”

What do you think Hemingway is saying about the value of organized religion during war time to help couples like Frederic and Catherine stay together?

2. Why do you think Catherine’s opinion of the red room changes?
3. What do Catherine and Frederic talk about that helps to establish both characters as “typical Hemingway heroes”?
4. Review the five main plot element found in most novels. If Book I is the introduction, prove that Book II is the Rising Action.

Chapter XXIV

1. Why do you think Frederic gives up his seat on the train to the captain of the artillery without making a fuss?

BOOK THREE

Chapter XXV

1. Find a comment in the chapter that expresses the Major's pessimistic attitude toward the war.
2. Why does Rinaldi say to Frederic, "You act like a married man"? What are the "sacred subjects" Rinaldi encounters all of his life?
3. Rinaldi says, "We are born with all we have and we never learn. We never get anything new. We all start complete. You should be glad not to be a Latin."

What is Rinaldi born with that he believes is all he will ever have in his life? What does Frederic have in his life that Rinaldi lacks?

4. In what way has the priest changed since Frederic saw him last?
5. Why do you think the Major ignores the priest's recommendation that Rinaldi needs a leave and why does he deny the fact that Rinaldi may have syphilis?

Chapter XXVI

1. Why does Frederic believe the war will continue?
2. What does the priest mean when he says, “Many people have realized the war this summer”?
3. What do you think are the reasons for the change in Frederic’s attitude toward war, from an idealistic eager soldier to the gentle soldier he has become?

Chapter XXVII

1. What strategy does Frederic propose to help the Italians win the battle with the Austrians? Why won’t the Italians consider this plan?
2. What are Frederic’s orders concerning the wounded if a retreat is ordered?
3. Some critics believe the following passage from this chapter sums up Hemingway’s views on war. What do you think he is saying about the importance of abstract ideals like glory when compared to real places or people?

“I was always embarrassed by the words sacred, glorious, and sacrifice and the expression in vain.... There were many words that you could not stand to hear and finally only the names of places had dignity. Certain numbers were the same way and certain dates and these with the names of the places were all you could say and have them mean anything. Abstract words such as glory, honor, courage, or hallow were obscene beside the concrete names of villages, the numbers of roads, the names of rivers, the numbers of regiments and the dates.”

Chapter XXVIII

1. Find an example of the stream of consciousness technique in this chapter.
2. Why does Frederic decide to take a side road? In what way is this decision a change in Frederic's usual behavior as a soldier in the Italian army?

Chapter XXIX

1. Why do you think Frederic decided to shoot the sergeant for disobeying his orders? What other way could he have handled the situation? Some critics believe this incident diminishes Frederic's hero status. What is your opinion?
2. In what ways can the killing of the sergeant be considered to be ironic?
3. Define the terms anarchist and socialist.

Chapter XXX

1. How is Aymo killed? Why does Frederic feel badly about his death?
2. Why does Bonello leave Frederic and Piani?
3. For what reason are the carabinieri questioning the Italian officers who try to cross the bridge?

4. Find an example of sarcasm in the paragraph describing the questioning and execution of the Italian officers by the carabinieri.
5. Many critics believe Frederic's escape from the carabinieri is the climax of the book. Cite incidents from the chapter to support or refute this idea.

Chapter XXXI

1. What steps does Frederic take to make himself inconspicuous to the other soldiers he passes? How does he manage to get out of the area?

Chapter XXXII

1. What new life does Frederic look forward to, now that his life as a soldier in the Italian army is over?

BOOK FOUR

Chapter XXXIII

1. In what ways does the wine shop proprietor offer to help Frederic? How does Frederic respond to his offer?
2. Why is the city of Stresa important to Frederic's future?
3. What is revealed in this chapter about Frederic's life before the war?
4. How does his friend Simmons help Frederic?

Chapter XXXIV

1. What does Frederic mean when he says he has made a “separate peace” with the war?
2. Write a brief character sketch of Ferguson. How does she truly feel about Catherine and Frederic?
3. Find a passage in this chapter that suggests Frederic has never been in love with another girl in the same way he loves Catherine.
4. As a typical Hemingway hero, Frederic suffers from loneliness and fear at night. Frederic states that:

“But with Catherine there was almost no difference in the night except that it was an even better time. If people bring so much courage to this world the world has to kill them to break them, so of course it kills them.”

In what way might this passage be an example of foreshadowing? What does Hemingway reveal to the reader about his state of mind and attitude toward life?

Chapter XXXV

1. Briefly identify Count Greffi.
2. What does the barman offer to give Frederic “Any time you want it”? Why do you think this offer is important in the story?
3. What are Count Greffi’s opinions on the following topics?

Wisdom in old age -

The war -

Religious devotion -

Chapter XXXVI

1. Why do you think the bartender helps Frederic and Catherine escape to Switzerland?

Chapter XXXVII

1. Find an example of comic relief in this chapter.
2. How do Catherine and Frederic know they have reached Switzerland?
3. Some critics believe Book IV is the Resolution of the story. Other see it as the Falling Action. Review the definitions of these plot elements and state which of these element is present in Book IV. Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.
4. What do you think is the significance of the title of this story? At what point in the story does Frederic make his “Farewell to Arms”?

BOOK V

Chapter XXXVIII

1. Why does Catherine want to drink beer? Why doesn't she want to get married right away?
2. Hemingway calls this novel his "Romeo and Juliet." Find a passage in this chapter where Frederic and Catherine define the depth of their love for each other.
3. What "things" is Frederic thinking about in the last paragraph of this chapter?

"But we did not. I was awake for quite a long time thinking about things and watching Catherine sleeping, the moonlight on her face. Then I went to sleep, too."

Chapter XXXIX

1. Review the characteristics of a typical Hemingway hero. Which of those characteristics is Frederic illustrating in this chapter?

Chapter XL

1. “We knew the baby was very close now and it gave us both a feeling as though something were hurrying us and we could not lose any time together.”

Why do you think Frederic and Catherine feel the need to hurry?

Chapter XLI

1. How does Catherine feel when they are preparing to leave for the hospital?
2. Catherine is having a difficult labor. Frederic is sent from the room so the doctor can examine Catherine. What does Frederic mean when he thinks, “You never get away with anything”?
3. How does Frederic feel when he sees the baby?
4. The following passage is one of the most famous metaphors in literature. Briefly describe how this metaphor illustrates the major theme in the story that the world is cruel and death is inevitable.

“Once in camp I put a log on top of the fire and it was full of ants. As it commenced to burn, the ants swarmed out and went first toward the center where the fire was; then turned back and ran toward the end. When there were enough on the end they fell off into the fire. Some got out, their bodies burnt and flattened, and went off not knowing where they were going. But most of them went toward the fire and then back toward the end and swarmed on the cool end and finally fell off into the fire.”

5. How does Catherine feel about her impending death? What does she mean when she tells Frederic, “I’ll come and stay with you nights”?

