

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Brian Nicola    Grade: 10    School: OOHS

Book Title: The Sun Also Rises    Genre: Fiction

Author: Ernest Hemingway    Pages: 256

Publisher: Scribner    Copyright: 1926 (2002 reprint)

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

The Sun Also Rises first appeared in 1926, and yet it's as fresh and clean and fine as it ever was, maybe finer. Hemingway's famously plain declarative sentences linger in the mind like poetry: "Brett was damned good-looking. She wore a slipover jersey sweater and a tweed skirt, and her hair was brushed back like a boy's. She started all that." His cast of thirtysomething dissolute expatriates--Brett and her drunken fiancé, Mike Campbell, the unhappy Princeton Jewish boxer Robert Cohn, the sardonic novelist Bill Gorton--are as familiar as the "cool crowd" we all once knew. No wonder this quintessential lost-generation novel has inspired several generations of imitators, in style as well as lifestyle.

Jake Barnes, Hemingway's narrator with a mysterious war wound that has left him sexually incapable, is the heart and soul of the book. Brett, the beautiful, doomed English woman he adores, provides the glamour of natural chic and sexual unattainability. Alcohol and post-World War I anomie fuel the plot: weary of drinking and dancing in Paris cafés, the expatriate gang decamps for the Spanish town of Pamplona for the "wonderful nightmare" of a week-long fiesta. Brett, with fiancé and ex-lover Cohn in tow, breaks hearts all around until she falls, briefly, for the handsome teenage bullfighter Pedro Romero. "My God! he's a lovely boy," she tells Jake. "And how I would love to see him get into those clothes. He must use a shoe-horn." Whereupon the party disbands. But what's most shocking about the book is its lean, adjective-free style. The Sun Also Rises is Hemingway's masterpiece--one of them, anyway--and no matter how many times you've read it or how you feel about the manners and morals of the characters, you won't be able to resist its spell. This is a classic that really does live up to its reputation (Laskin/Amazon).

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

See attached form with highlights. Primary focus will be related to reading through multiple lenses and author context.

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

### Review #1

The quintessential novel of the Lost Generation, The Sun Also Rises is one of Ernest Hemingway's masterpieces and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral

bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* helped to establish Hemingway as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century (Goodreads.com).

Review #2

Hemingway's spare writing style is deceptively simple, and it is fascinating to dissect a book like this and to grasp how much the author said with few words. Widely acknowledged to be one of Hemingway's masterpieces, *The Sun Also Rises* is at once an indictment and an ode to the Lost Generation or writers and artists who came of age in the years just after World War I. It's also a beautiful love letter to European travel and cafe life. Though Hemingway's attitudes toward love and toward drinking are possibly even more controversial now than they were in the 1920s, the world he creates is complex and complete, the beauty and feel of the scenery is palpable, and Hemingway gives readers of any age loads to think about (Commonsensemedia.com).

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: *Catcher in the Rye*    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Alcohol plays a major role in the novel, but the characters are incredibly and obviously flawed due to the usage. There are a few implied sexual situations. Some objectionable language, but fairly minor. Some racial and gender stereotyping that is consistent with the context in which Hemingway lived and wrote.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated     Regular     At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):**            6    7    8    9    10    11    12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):** 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** August 6, 2017

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults