

## SUMMER READING FOR ENGLISH 1301/1302, ENGLISH 2321/2322, AND 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COLLEGE PREP

*A Farewell to Arms* is a novel by Ernest Hemingway depicting the experiences of a young American who volunteers for military service with the Italian army during World War I and falls in love with his English nurse. While sharing the tragedies and brutalities of war, Hemingway stops short of glorifying war, focusing instead on the love story that envelopes the two main characters. Based upon Hemingway's personal experiences on the Italian front during the war, *A Farewell to Arms* is a powerful statement about the effects of war on ordinary people.

As you read, explore, and experience the novel, write in your books. Underline pivotal quotations and particularly powerful phrases and passages. Write your comments or questions in the margins. Your assignment, which is due the second week of class, is to complete two activities as outlined on the following pages in an effort to illuminate major themes, attitudes, and literary devices employed throughout the text.

While this novel and journaling assignment may be challenging, it will also be fun and enlightening. Enjoy the reading experience!

### **A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway**

As you read *A Farewell to Arms*, respond to the text in two ways. First, complete the Snippets activity. In addition, choose one additional activity from the four offered below.

#### ***Snippets Activity--Required***

Select 10 snippets from the text. In literature a snippet is defined as a tidbit or morsel, a well-turned sentence or phrase, an idea extraordinaire, or written words that affect the personality and/or touch the soul. Please note that a single word does not a snippet make.

For each of the 10 selected snippets, type the passage being sure to properly document the page number from your edition of the novel. Follow the snippet with a paragraph explaining why you selected that snippet from the novel or what it means to you personally. This is not as much an interpretation of the quote within the novel's context as it is an explanation of the quote's personal meaning. Why did you select it? How does the quote speak to you? Please also mention any literary devices used in the snippet.

Avoid quotations listed in Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes and other similar incarnations. Develop your responses completely and thoughtfully, understanding that a single sentence of explanation is not sufficient.

Choose *one* of the following:

#### ***Movie trailer***

Select a major scene or event from the novel that exhibits the theme of the work. Create a 3-5 minute multi-media presentation or mini-movie representing that scene or event while emphasizing the theme. Include a one-page explanation of the project and theme describing specifically how that theme is displayed in your original creation.

#### ***Book jacket***

Create an original, illustrated book jacket for the novel. Convey the theme and mood of the text through the colors, images and graphics you choose for your original artwork. Include necessary information such as title and author. Compose a one-page explanation of the project describing specifically how the theme is communicated in your piece.

#### ***Soundtrack***

Choose ten songs that represent the events and themes in the novel. Create a music CD with one-minute samplings from each of the ten selected songs. Write a paragraph explanation for each song including the title, composer and performer. Explain why you selected the song and which specific scene it would accompany. Use good judgment when selecting appropriate lyrics for a school assignment.

#### ***Historical Research***

Research and write about an historical event or perspective related to the novel and World War I. Use at least two outside sources in your analysis and then relate the topic to the novel. Produce a minimum of two pages of research and original commentary for your paper.