

***A Farewell to Arms* Constructed Responses**

30 Points

Directions: For the following, write a constructed response in which you address the prompt. Be sure your responses 1) are as complete and focused as possible, 2) are well thought out and go beyond simply a list of the questions, and 3) **are supported with specific text from the novel**. You may also find it helpful to think past the questions I've given or think about them in a novel way.

Central to Hemingway's novels and stories is the idea of a "code hero", a character that illustrates Hemingway's belief in an arbitrary world where a man's actions are all that A) define the man and B) give meaning to a meaningless world. According to Hemingway, a hero is "a man who lives correctly, following the ideals of honor, courage and endurance in a world that is sometimes chaotic, often stressful, and always painful." The hero is principled, moral, and accepting of his place in the universe: that there is nothing for him but death. Most of these individuals exhibit the characteristics we discussed in class:

1. Isolation from those around them, even those they care for most deeply. Isolation need not be physical, but emotional; it need not be overt, but seen in a lack of sharing with the other person or sharing superficial or insincere activities or conversation. Heroes do not, however, lie.
2. Stoic, showing no emotional reactions to the world around them leaving them to deal with the inevitability of pain and death, illustrating their "courage and endurance."
3. "Playing the game" knowing that they have lost; giving meaning to the meaningless by facing it with "honor."
4. Being wounded, either physically and emotionally (or both), by the world, allowing them to illustrate their courage through their stoicism to the arbitrary nature of existence.
5. Being an expert at something—usually a physically or mentally demanding activity—which not only distracted them from the meaninglessness and inevitability of existence, but also gives some small measure of meaning and control to their lives by allowing them to shape some tiny aspect of the world around them.
6. In addition, these characters often illustrate something called the "Nada Concept". This idea is that there is nothingness in the world to believe or have faith in, a lack of a supernatural force (God) that loves and protects them and gives their lives order, meaning, and value. Because of this, they are forced to confront this absence and deal with it by giving their own lives meaning. However, this is not easily done and acceptance of the "Nada" is frightening, often leading the character to find some means of dealing with the fear (work, booze, sex, etc.).

- Chose one (1) of the following characters and argue how this individual **BEST** fits and illustrated 1) the five characteristics of a “code hero” above, and 2) how his/her attitudes and worldview demonstrates the “Nada Concept”. In your response, be sure to explain your reasoning in choosing this character to exemplify Hemingway’s philosophy over the others.

Henry Fredrick
Catherine Barkley
Rinaldi

The Priest
Count Greffi

Please understand that these qualities to **NOT** exist in isolation. They tie together and you should take advantage of this. In other words, when discussing isolation, you may also want to discuss how this may be caused by the ideas of stoicism and the “nada”; or discussing being wounded might lend itself to discussing how this causes the character to become an expert (or lose the ability to participate in the activity) and how this affects the character’s “playing the game” of life. These are suggestions only, but you should **NOT** give me a simply laundry list of how the character fits these ideas.

As always, BE SURE you have and develop a **specific argument** (thesis) and **use and explain specific support** from the novel to show these characteristics.

In addition to the normal criteria, you will be graded based on your ingenuity, creativity, and understanding. The more connections you make, the more creative and detailed your explanation, and the more comprehensive and obvious you make your understanding of the novel, the better your grade will be. Do NOT simply rely on what we discussed in class! Try to look at the characters in your OWN way.