

The Sun Also Rises

The remarkable thing about the book was its liberal use of dialogue and how Hemingway used it

to carry the reader through the book. There was no plot in the book in the sense that there was no

twists, intrigue, or goals for any of the characters and the dialogue was the only thing that moved

the reader through the book. Hemingway used so much dialogue that it was difficult at times to

follow who was saying what, but I believe this didn't matter because any of the characters, except

for maybe Jake, could have been carrying on those conversations.

I say anyone except Jake because he was different than all the other characters in more ways than

just being the narrator. He obviously had received a wound from W.W.I that caused him to be

sexually scarred and thus set him apart from anyone else. Jake seemed to be an observer who

was watching the lives of his friends unfold and happen around him, but without his participation. I

read that Hemingway had purposely re-written the book in first person and this was probably to

spell out that Jake was an observer and was thus aware of what was written on the pages. There

is a scene towards the end of the book where Jake finds all of his friends eating at a restaurant and

thinks to himself that he is too far behind to catch up. Jake always seems behind, or at least only a

marginal player put so in his position because of his injury. He must have had relations with Brett

before the injury and was a "player" before it, so this leads to the assumption that Jake purposely

removed himself from being a participant.

As I was reading I was trying to make connections and read into the story to try and understand if

there was more there than what was just on the page. It was hard, for me, to see more than just

the story, but perhaps Hemingway just wanted the reader to experience other people's lives. I say

this because many of the experiences that occurred to the characters also took place in

Hemingway's life and maybe he just wanted to share with us what it was like.
Category: English/
Paper:

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