

The Sun Also Rises Literary Device

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Symbols

Bullfighting : Hemingway uses bullfighting as a symbol for war and manliness. The bullfight represents the ideals of war (courage, bravery, honor, glory) that were destroyed by the mechanized war of World War I. In the bullfight, the bull and the matador fight face to face with courage and skill. It is a battle for honor and glory. This makes the characters love watching it, because in the bullfight, they still see rules, bravery, and meaning—things they no longer find in real life after the war.

The Fiesta : The fiesta in Pamplona is also a symbol. It stands for escape, excitement, and wild living. During the festival, people forget their worries with wine, music, and dancing. But the fiesta also shows the emptiness of such fun, because after the festival ends, everyone feels tired, broken, and lost again.