

The Story of Ferdinand

by Munro Leaf



Teacher's Guide

Written By Laurie Rozakis, Ph.D.

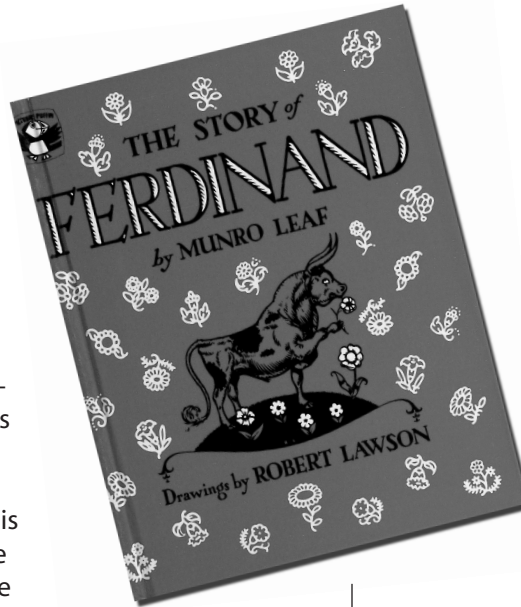
**CLASSROOM
FAVORITES**

A Perma-Bound Production

This guide was prepared using the Puffin Books edition, ©1977. Other editions may differ.

Synopsis

The story opens in a small village in Spain. All the little bulls but Ferdinand are frisky. Ferdinand prefers to sit quietly by himself and smell the flowers. He especially likes to sit under a cork tree and smell the flowers that grow there. His mother, a cow, worries that he is lonesome, but she understands that he is happiest being left alone. As the years pass, Ferdinand grows very big but is still gentle. All the other bulls want to be chosen to be in the bullfights in Madrid, but not Ferdinand. One day, five men come to choose the biggest and strongest bulls to fight in Madrid. All the bulls but Ferdinand show off. He accidentally sits on a bumble bee, gets stung, and jumps around in anger. Ferdinand's reaction to the bee sting is mistaken for bravado, and he is taken to Madrid to participate in the bullfights. In the ring, he chooses to sit and smell the flowers in the ladies' hair rather than fight. At the end of the book, Ferdinand is taken safely back to his cork tree.



Timeline of the Spanish Civil War

- Feb. 1936** Popular Front wins national elections; Azana appointed president of Spain
- March** Right wing Falange Party banned
- March - May** Strikes and general anarchy in some parts of Spain
- July** Military uprisings in Spanish Morocco and some parts of mainland Spain
Spanish government dissolves regular army
Franco takes command of army in Morocco

Hitler lends supports to Nationalists, Stalin to Republicans

August First International Brigade volunteers arrived in Spain

September Military junta names Franco head of state and commander of Spain's armed forces

October Russians aid Republicans

November Germany and Italy recognize Franco as head of Spain's government

Feb. 1937 Nationalists start a major offensive against Madrid

March Battle of Guadalajara

April Bombing destroys Guernica

May Republican groups in Barcelona fall out

June Bilbao falls to the Nationalists

August The Vatican recognizes Franco's regime

April 1938 Nationalists split Republican Spain in half

May Franco declares the Republicans must surrender unconditionally

July The Republic begins to collapse

October The International Brigade leaves Spain

Jan. 1939 Barcelona falls to Franco

February Britain and France recognize Franco's government

March Madrid surrenders to Franco

April Republicans surrender unconditionally to Franco

Biographical Sketches

MUNRO LEAF

(Wilbur) Munro Leaf was born in 1905 in Hamilton, Maryland. His father was a painter; his mother, a homemaker. Leaf earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1927 and received his master's degree from Harvard University four years later. Leaf began his career as a teacher and football coach at Belmont Hill School, Belmont, Massachusetts, where he

The Story of Ferdinand Munro Leaf

worked for a year, 1929-1930. From there, Leaf entered publishing, taking a position with Bobbs-Merrill in New York City. Moving up the ranks, he became an editor and director in 1933, serving in that capacity until 1939. In 1942, Leaf joined the war effort, serving until 1946 and reaching the rank of major. Leaf worked as an author and illustrator until his death from cancer in 1976. One Sunday afternoon in 1935, Leaf decided to write a children's story to allow his friend Robert Lawson, then not widely known, to showcase his talents. Leaf wrote the book about a gentle bull in less than an hour and subsequently made no revisions. When published the following year as *The Story of Ferdinand*, the book immediately sparked controversy. Americans received the book enthusiastically and it became an instant favorite, but several right-wing European governments banned it as a pacifist parable and attack on aggression. That same year, Leaf published his second most popular book, *Manners Can Be Fun*, illustrated with the "watchbird" stick figures who observe the behavior of boys and girls.



The Story of Ferdinand has influenced popular culture in many ways. In 1938, Walt Disney adapted the book as a short animated film entitled *Ferdinand the Bull*, in a style similar to Disney's *Silly Symphonies* series (and sometimes considered an unofficial part of that series). *Ferdinand the Bull* won the 1938 Academy Award for Best Short Subject (Cartoons). Recently, the pop punk band Fall Out Boy named their album *From Under the Cork Tree* after a phrase in the book. Singer-songwriter Elliott Smith has a tattoo of Ferdinand the Bull from the cover of the book on his right upper arm, which is visible on the cover of his record *either/or*.

ROBERT LAWSON

Robert Lawson (1892-1957) won the 1941 Caldecott Medal for *They Were Strong and Good!*

Critic's Corner

Munro Leaf's *Wee Gillis* was named a Caldecott Medal honor book in 1939, but it was *The Story of Ferdinand* that catapulted him to literary immortality. Published in December of 1936, the book soon became both a literary and cultural phenomenon. *The Story of Ferdinand* has been issued in fifty foreign editions in sixteen languages and had sold 2.5 million copies in America at the time of Leaf's death in 1976. Controversy over the

book's theme no doubt aided in these phenomenal sales. Since the book was released at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, many supporters of Francisco Franco interpreted the story as a pacifist parable and an attack on aggression. As a result, several right-wing European governments banned the book. In Germany, Hitler ordered the book burned. Perhaps because of that suppression, many on the political left supported it. For instance, Stalin granted it privileged status as the only non-communist children's book allowed in Poland. In India, Gandhi called it his favorite book. However, Leaf insisted the book was a story for children: no more and no less. Margaret Leaf, Munro Leaf's widow, described the success of *The Story of Ferdinand* in a *Publishers Weekly* article. "What happened with *Ferdinand* is still a mystery," she began. "After Christmas, sales increased every week, and within thirteen months eight editions had been published. Ferdinand appeared as a giant balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade; a Ferdinand song made the hit parade; and in December of 1938, *The Story of Ferdinand* nudged *Gone with the Wind* off the top of the bestseller lists."

As you would expect, reviewers recognize the book's classic appeal. The Amazon.com reviewer, for instance, wrote: "What else can be said about the fabulous *Ferdinand*? Published more than 50 years ago (and one of the bestselling children's books of all time), this simple story of peace and contentment has withstood the test of many generations. . . . Robert Lawson's black-and-white drawings are evocative and detailed, with especially sweet renditions of Ferdinand, the serene bull hero. *The Story of Ferdinand* closes with one of the happiest endings in the history of happy endings—readers of all ages will drift off to a peaceful sleep, dreaming of sweet-smelling flowers and contented cows."

Other Books by Munro Leaf

Leaf's Books for Children, Self-Illustrated

- Lo, the Poor Indian* (1934)
- Grammar Can Be Fun* (1934)
- Robert Francis Weatherbee* (1935)
- Manners Can Be Fun* (1936)
- Safety Can Be Fun* (1938)
- The Watchbirds: A Picture Book of Behavior* (1939)
- Fair Play* (1939)
- Your Library and Some People You Don't Want in It* (1939)
- More Watchbirds: A Picture Book of Behavior* (1940)
- John Henry Davis* (1940)
- Fly Away, Watchbirds!: A Picture Book of Behavior* (1941)

Fun Book: The Munro Leaf Big Three—Manners Can Be Fun, Grammar Can Be Fun, Safety Can Be Fun (1941)
A War-Time Handbook for Young Americans (1942)
Health Can Be Fun (1943)
Three and Thirty Watchbirds: A Picture Book of Behavior (1944)
Gordon the Goat (1944)
Let's Do Better (1945)
Flock of Watchbirds (includes *Watchbirds, More Watchbirds, and Fly Away, Watchbirds!*) (1946)
How to Behave and Why (1946)
Sam and the Superdroop (1948)
Arithmetic Can Be Fun (1949)
History Can Be Fun (1950)
Geography Can Be Fun (1952)
Reading Can Be Fun (1953)
Lucky You (1955)
Three Promises to You (1957)
Science Can Be Fun (1958)
The Wishing Pool (1960)
Being an American Can Be Fun (1964)
Turnabout (1967)
Who Cares? I Do (1971)
Metric Can Be Fun (1976)
Four-and-Twenty Watchbirds Linnets Books (1990)

Children's Books, Illustrated by Other Artists

The Story of Ferdinand (1936)
Noodle (1937)
Wee Gillis (1938)
The Story of Simpson and Sampson (1941)
 (Reteller) *Aesop's Fables* (1941)
Gwendolyn the Goose (1946)
Boo Who Used to Be Scared of the Dark (1948)

Leaf also wrote magazine articles and pamphlets.

Bibliography

Books

Children's Literature Review, Volume 25, Gale, 1991.
Twentieth-Century Children's Writers, 4th edition, St. James Press, 1995.

Periodicals

New York Times, November 15, 1936; September 19, 1937.
New York Times Book Review, January 21, 1968; January 2, 1972; May 30, 1976.
Publishers Weekly, October 31, 1986.
Times Literary Supplement, March 14, 1968.
Washington Post, September 18, 1986.

Online

Contemporary Authors Online. The Gale Group, 2000.

General Objectives

1. To identify the setting
2. To read about bulls
3. To learn about the book's history
4. To describe the story's sweet mood
5. To compare and contrast Ferdinand to the other bulls
6. To understand the theme of peace
7. To enjoy the story's gentle humor
8. To appreciate the detailed artwork
9. To analyze how the art and text work together to tell the story
10. To analyze why Ferdinand is taken back to his pasture

Specific Objectives

1. To understand that the book is set in Spain in the 1930s, during the Spanish Civil War
2. To determine how Ferdinand is different from the other bulls
3. To see that Ferdinand is a pacifist
4. To understand why Ferdinand does not want to fight and prefers to sit and smell the flowers
5. To appreciate the concern that Ferdinand's mother has for his happiness
6. To figure out why the men in the funny hats come to Ferdinand's pasture
7. To learn about the sport of bullfighting
8. To understand how Ferdinand comes to be chosen to fight in the bull ring
9. To see what Ferdinand does during the bullfight
10. To decide whether the book has a deeper meaning

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Munro Leaf's style, present the following terms and applications to the story book:

Parable: a simple story illustrating a moral lesson. *The Story of Ferdinand* is a parable about the primacy of peace over war. It teaches the lesson that people should eschew violence and take the time "to stop and smell the flowers," to appreciate nature.

Visuals: Since *The Story of Ferdinand* is a picture book, the visuals are a key aspect of the story. Here, the visuals and text work together to tell the story of the peaceful bull. The black-and-white illustrations are extremely

The Story of Ferdinand

Munro Leaf

detailed, which helps readers learn about bullfighting, which is apt to be an unfamiliar subject. In addition, the illustrations are subtly humorous. For instance, the illustration of the matadors is funny because of the contrast among the men: some are tall and slender while others are short and fat. One matador is yelling at another, who is responding with a bored and arrogant expression. The last matador has lost his hat!

Tone: the writer's attitude toward his or her subject matter. For example, the tone can be angry, bitter, sad, or frightening. *The Story of Ferdinand* has a sweet, gentle tone in keeping with its theme of peace. This makes it a soothing, charming book for children and adults alike.

The Importance of Setting

The Story of Ferdinand is set in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. The conflict, which lasted from July 18, 1936, to April 1, 1939, pitted the Second Spanish Republic and political left-wing groups against a right-wing nationalist insurrection led by General Francisco Franco. He eventually succeeded in ousting the Republican government and establishing a personal dictatorship.

Although the war lasted only three years, the political situation had been volatile for several years prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Republican sympathizers proclaimed it as a struggle between "tyranny and democracy," or "fascism and liberty." Many young revolutionaries joined the International Brigades, which believed that preserving the Spanish Republic was the bulwark against fascism. Franco's supporters, however, viewed the conflict as a battle between communism and anarchism, on one hand, and "Christian civilization" on the other. On all sides, brutality was common. The war started with military uprisings throughout Spain and its colonies, followed by Republican reprisals against the Church. Twelve bishops, over 250 nuns, 2,000 monks and 4,000 priests were murdered. Trade-unionists, known Republican sympathizers, and critics of Franco's regime were among the first to be targeted, although landowners and industrialists were also attacked.

By the end, the war's impact was enormous. Between 300,000 and 1 million people were killed. Many of these deaths, however, resulted not from military operations but rather from the brutal mass killings perpetrated on both sides. The Spanish economy took decades to recover. Further, the political and emotional repercussions of the war reverberated far beyond the boundaries of Spain and sparked passion among international

intellectual and political communities, concerns still relevant in Spanish politics today. Critics interpret *The Story of Ferdinand* against this setting, but it holds up equally well when read as a simple parable of peace, as its lasting popularity demonstrates.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Books

Virginia Lee Burton, *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel*
Anne Fine, *The Jamie and Angus Stories*
Majorie Flack, *The Story About Ping*
Ellin Greene, *Billy Beg and His Bull: An Irish Tale*
Robert McCloskey, *Blueberries for Sal*
Arlene Mosel, *Tikki Tikki Tembo*
George Orwell, *1984*
George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony*
John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*
Kathleen Waldron, *Roundup at the Palace*
Katie Weaver, *Bill in a China Shop*

Media Adaptations

The Story of Ferdinand was made into a filmstrip and an animated film, *Ferdinand the Bull*, by Walt Disney Studios in 1938

Audiotapes

The Story of Ferdinand

Internet

The Story of Ferdinand
pages.prodigy.net/poss/ferdinand/
Munro Leaf Teacher Resource
falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/leaf.htm
Munro Leaf - Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munro_Leaf
Munro Leaf: Information From Answers.com
www.answers.com/topic/munro-leaf
Munro Leaf
www.toyecorp.com/Leaf.html
Munro Leaf
www.campusi.com/author_Munro_Leaf.htm

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Munro Leaf's *The Story of Ferdinand* should include these aspects:

Themes

- bees
- bulls
- bullfighting
- cork trees
- flowers
- matadors
- peace
- showing off
- Spain
- war

Motifs

- being different from everyone else
- getting stung by a bee
- wanting to be left alone to appreciate nature
- enjoying the excitement of a bullfight
- learning all about bullfighting
- leaping, jumping, and butting
- sitting under a cork tree
- appreciating the Matador
- smelling the flowers
- telling a story in pictures and words

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the storybook. Explain the meaning of each.

1. "Once upon a time in Spain"
(Leaf casts his storybook as a fairy tale, as shown by the classic fairy tale opening. These opening words show that the book can be read as a simple children's tale, as Leaf had always claimed it was. In addition, however, it can be read as an anti-war, pro-peace polemic.)
2. "He liked to sit just quietly and smell the flowers."
(The other young bulls like to run around and butt each other in the head. Ferdinand, in contrast, prefers to be on his own in nature. Explain to children that the phrase "to stop and smell the flowers" has come to mean to stop and assess your life. It refers to those who make deliberate choices that lead to a healthier and happier life rather than constantly trying to keep up with their neighbors.)
3. "Sometimes his mother, who was a cow, would worry about him."
(Ferdinand's mother fears that her son is not happy. She thinks that he will be lonesome all by himself. Be sure students understand the stereotype of bulls as fearsome, combative creatures. This scene shows her kindness as well as the pressure people often feel to fit in with others. Fortunately, Ferdinand's mother is kindly and allows her son to be by himself and appreciate nature peacefully.)
4. "All the other bulls who had grown up with him in the same pasture would fight each other all day."
(Unlike Ferdinand, the other bulls want to be chosen to fight in the bullfights in Madrid. This scene can be read as an allegory about all the people who yearn for the perceived glamour and romance of active combat.)
5. "Well, if you were a bumblebee and a bull sat on you what would you do?"
(All the bulls but Ferdinand show off for the men from Madrid. Ferdinand, in contrast, sits down under his favorite cork tree and smells the flowers. He accidentally sits on a bumblebee, gets stung, and jumps around in anger. The picture on this page is especially humorous and evocative, showing Ferdinand bug-eyed with astonishment.)
6. "Wow! Did it hurt! Ferdinand jumped up with a snort."
(The men from Madrid mistake his pain for aggression and choose him to fight in the bullfights. Thus, he is chosen to fight simply as the result of an accident.)
7. "And all the lovely ladies had flowers in their hair."
(This scene foreshadows the book's climax, when Ferdinand chooses to smell the ladies' flowers rather than fighting. By hinting about how Ferdinand will react in the ring, Leaf prepares readers for the book's logical conclusion.)
8. "Then came the bull, and you know who that was, don't you? — Ferdinand."
(The contrast between the fierce bulls and the gentle Ferdinand is emphasized by a change in the typeface. The sentence is written in the same font as the rest of the book; the word "Ferdinand," in contrast, is in a smaller font. The smaller font suggests the surprise to come when Ferdinand will refuse to fight.)
9. "They called him Ferdinand the Fierce and all the Banderilleros were afraid of him and the Matador was scared stiff."
(Leaf sets Ferdinand up as a fierce bull to build suspense. Readers wonder for a moment if they have been wrong; perhaps

The Story of Ferdinand

Munro Leaf

getting stung by the bee changed Ferdinand's character and he is no longer peaceful. As events prove, he has not changed at all— fortunately.)

10. "When he got to the middle of the ring he saw the flowers in all the lovely ladies' hair and he just sat down quietly and smelled."
(Ferdinand does not disappoint readers: he indeed refuses to fight. Instead he sits down in the middle of the ring and enjoys the flowers. Since he is no use as a fighter, Ferdinand is shipped home, where he lives happily ever after in his spot under the cork tree. The picture on this page is adorable, showing Ferdinand all alone in the middle of a huge bull ring, grinning happily.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the storybook.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. Where does the story take place?
(It is set in Spain.)
2. How is Ferdinand different from the other bulls?
(He prefers sitting quietly and smelling the flowers to jumping all around and butting his head at the other bulls.)
3. Where is Ferdinand's favorite place to sit?
(He most enjoys sitting in the pasture, under the cork tree.)
4. Why does Ferdinand get chosen to fight in the bullfights?
(Ferdinand sits on a bumblebee, gets stung, and jumps around in anger. As a result, the men assume that he is fierce.)
5. What happens when Ferdinand gets in the bull ring?
(He sits down to smell the flowers in the ladies' hair. He does not fight at all.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why do you think people enjoy bullfighting?
(They like to see the excitement and action; the sport is bloody and unpredictable.)
7. What makes Ferdinand seem so fierce to the bullfighters?
(It's not only his fierce reaction to the bee sting, but also his huge size and enormous strength that make him seem scary.)

8. Many people have found a message in this book. What do you think that message is?
(In Ferdinand's dislike of aggression, people see an anti-war message. They see the importance of a life of peace and contemplation.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. *The Story of Ferdinand* was published more than seventy years ago. Why do you think people still read this book?
(Possible answers: They appreciate its gentleness, they like the message of peace, and they find Ferdinand an appealing and humorous character.)
10. Do you think that a real bull would act the way Ferdinand does? Why or why not?
(While there may indeed be peaceful bulls, the author imbues Ferdinand with many human qualities that make him unrealistic.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Pretend that you are the Matador. Show how you would act during a bullfight.
12. Ferdinand is called "Ferdinand the Fierce." Make up two new names for Ferdinand. Tell how each one fits his real personality.

Across the Curriculum

Art/Music

1. Ferdinand is a bull. Draw a farm scene. Show bulls as well as other animals that you would be likely to find on a farm.
2. Make a puppet from a sock, craft stick, or paper bag. With a classmate, put on a short puppet show about Ferdinand's adventures.
3. The pictures in *Ferdinand the Bull* are in black and white. Choose a picture you liked a lot. Copy it on a separate piece of paper. Then color it. Which version do you like better? Why?
4. The book shows a poster for a bullfight. Make a poster for a sporting event in your school or community. Display it for everyone to enjoy.
5. Ferdinand likes to sit quietly. What music makes you feel quiet and happy? Sing the song for a friend.

Language Arts

1. English has different names for the male, female, and baby members of a species. For example, a

bull is male; a cow is female, a calf is an infant. Find the male, female, and baby terms for chickens, pigs, sheep, and ducks.

2. *The Story of Ferdinand* starts off like a fairy tale: "Once upon a time." Read another fairy tale, such as "Little Red Riding Hood" or "The Three Bears." Tell how it is the same and different from *The Story of Ferdinand*.
3. Ferdinand's mother understands that he is happiest being left alone. What makes you happiest: being left alone or being with people? Write your answer in a journal entry.
4. Leaf said that he chose a bull as his main character simply to set the book apart from the other kids' books already written. Those books use common animals like dogs and cats. Rewrite this book using a common animal. Add your own pictures, too.
5. Imagine that Ferdinand had fought in the bullfight. Write a newspaper article about what happened.

Social Studies/Geography

1. The story is set in Spain. Find Spain on a map.
2. Matadors want to use Ferdinand in a bullfight. Report on bullfighting.
3. People in Spain speak a language called Spanish. Learn ten words in Spanish. Make a booklet with the Spanish words and their English meanings. Teach the words to a friend.
4. Look on a map to find five big Spanish cities. Circle them. Then choose one city and make a travel brochure for it.
5. Research the Spanish Civil War. Give the years of the war and tell what happened.

Speech/Physical Education

1. Pretend you are a bull. Show how bulls act.
2. One day, five men in funny hats come to chose bulls to fight in Madrid. Hold a Funny Hat Day in your school. Ask your teacher or the principal to decide who is wearing the funniest hat.
3. Pretend you are Ferdinand's mother. In a speech, tell why you worry about him.

4. Put on a play about doing peaceful things all day, like sitting and smelling the flowers.
5. Bullfighting is a traditional sport in Spain. Report on a traditional American sport such as baseball or football. Teach the class the rules to the sport you chose. If possible, play a game of it, too.

Math

1. The story takes place in Spain. Using a map key, find out how many miles Spain is from your home town in America.
2. Munro Leaf was born in 1905. How old would he be now if he were still alive? How much older is he than you?
3. Ferdinand grows very big. Make a chart showing how much you have grown in the last five years. Ask your family for help remembering how tall you were at different ages.

Science

1. Ferdinand especially liked to sit under a cork tree. Find out what cork is and how it grows. How is it used?
2. What foods do bulls eat? Look online or in an encyclopedia to answer this question. Then list all their foods.
3. Stop and smell the flowers! Then identify the flowers you see. List at least four different kinds.
4. Ferdinand is stung by a bee. Find out how to treat a bee sting. Make a booklet to show your classmates.
5. Make a chart showing how much the average bull weighs. Compare that weight to how much an average child your age weighs. How much more does a bull weigh?

Alternate Assessment

1. Act out the scene when Ferdinand refuses to fight.
2. Draw another cover for the book.
3. Munro Leaf wrote this book as a favor for his friend Robert Lawson. Do a favor for a friend or parent.
4. Tell the rest of Ferdinand's story. What happened to him after he got back home?

Vocabulary

On the line, write the word that means the opposite of each story word.

1. little _____

2. quietly _____

3. shade _____

4. happy _____

5. long _____

6. roughest _____

7. strong _____

8. fastest _____

9. cool _____

10. sharp _____

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Order (20 points)

Put the events in order. Write the numbers on the lines.

- _____ Ferdinand is taken back to his home in the pasture.
- _____ First come the Banderilleros carrying long, sharp pins.
- _____ His mother worries that he is lonesome.
- _____ Five men in very funny hats come to pick the biggest, roughest bulls for the bullfights.
- _____ They have a parade into the bull ring.
- _____ Ferdinand is taken to the bull ring.
- _____ Ferdinand jumps up and runs around kicking and snorting.
- _____ He sits down to smell the flowers in the ladies' hair.
- _____ Next comes the Picadores riding skinny horses.
- _____ Ferdinand is a little bull.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the letter to the description. Write the letter in the correct space.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Madrid | A. what Ferdinand likes to smell |
| _____ 2. cork tree | B. the creature who stings Ferdinand |
| _____ 3. flowers | C. the city where the bullfights are held |
| _____ 4. Spain | D. the tree Ferdinand likes to sit under |
| _____ 5. bee | E. the country where the story takes place |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark these sentences T if they are true or F if they are false.

- _____ 1. Ferdinand's mother, a cow, worries that he is lonesome, but understands that he is happiest being left alone.
- _____ 2. Ferdinand shows off for the men because he wants to be chosen to fight in the bull ring.
- _____ 3. The Matador wears a red cape and carries a sword. The Matador is very proud.
- _____ 4. The Matador is not supposed to stick the bull at all.
- _____ 5. Everyone in the bull ring is scared of Ferdinand.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose one. Answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Ferdinand. Write three sentences or more.
2. Do you think Ferdinand is a coward? Tell why or why not. Write at least three sentences.
3. Pick a picture you liked. Tell about it. Write three sentences or more.
4. Tell what you learned about peace from this book. Write three sentences or more.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Story Events (20 points)

Circle the two events that are not part of the story.

1. Ferdinand likes to sit and smell the flowers.
2. His mother worries that he is lonesome.
3. Ferdinand meets a beautiful cow and they fall in love.
4. Five men in very funny hats come to pick the biggest, roughest bulls for the bullfights.
5. Ferdinand gets stung by a bee. He jumps up and runs around kicking and snorting.
6. Ferdinand reads a book about bullfighting to learn all about the sport.
7. Ferdinand is taken to the bull ring.

Part II: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

Circle the word to complete each sentence.

1. The story opens in a small village in **(Russia, Spain)**.
2. Ferdinand especially likes to sit under a **(pine, cork)** tree.
3. All the other bulls want to be chosen to be in the bullfights in **(New York City, Madrid)**.
4. Before the bullfight, they have a **(parade, bicycle race)**.
5. The **(Picador, Matador)** is the proudest bullfighter of all.

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements T if they are true or F if they are false.

- _____ 1. Ferdinand is a peaceful cow.
- _____ 2. The bulls fight each other all day. They butt each other and stick each other.
- _____ 3. The lovely ladies in town wear flowers in their hair.
- _____ 4. Part of the contest is riding the bulls around the bull ring.
- _____ 5. At the end of the story, Ferdinand is very happy.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose one. Answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Ferdinand's life at home with his mother. Write three sentences or more.
2. How is Ferdinand like a person? How is he different? Write three sentences or more.
3. Tell what happens when Ferdinand is taken to the bullfights. Write three sentences or more.
4. Would you like to be friends with Ferdinand? Why or why not? Write three sentences or more.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

Possible Responses:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. big | 6. smoothest |
| 2. loudly | 7. weak |
| 3. sun | 8. slowest |
| 4. sad | 9. warm |
| 5. short | 10. dull |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Order (20 points)

- __10__ Ferdinand is taken back to his home in the pasture.
__6__ First come the Banderilleros carrying long, sharp pins.
__2__ His mother worries that he is lonesome.
__3__ Five men in very funny hats come to pick the biggest, roughest bulls for the bullfights.
__5__ They have a parade into the bull ring.
__8__ Ferdinand is taken to the bull ring.
__4__ Ferdinand jumps up and runs around kicking and snorting.
__9__ He sits down to smell the flowers in the ladies' hair.
__7__ Next comes the Picadores riding skinny horses.
__1__ Ferdinand is a little bull.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. E
5. B

Part III: True/False (20 points)

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T

Part IV: Essay (40 Points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Story Events (20 points)

3. Ferdinand meets a beautiful cow and they fall in love.
6. Ferdinand reads a book about bullfighting to learn all about the sport.

Part II: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

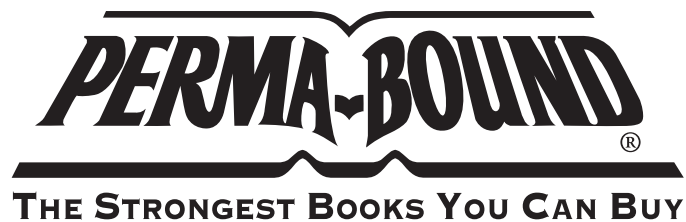
1. Spain
2. cork
3. Madrid
4. parade
5. Matador

Part III: True/False (20 points)

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T

Part IV: Essay (40 Points)

Answers will vary.



Perma-Bound

617 East Vandalia Road • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Toll Free 1-800-637-6581 • Fax 1-800-551-1169
E-Mail: books@perma-bound.com

Perma-Bound Canada

Box 868, Station Main • Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7A2
Toll Free 1-800-461-1999 • Fax 1-888-250-3811
E-Mail: perma-bound.ca@sympatico.ca

Visit us online at www.perma-bound.com