

# QUICK CARD: *THE STORY OF FERDINAND*



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| <b>Reference</b>        | <i>The Story of Ferdinand</i> . Munro Leaf. (1936)<br>ISBN: 978-0448456942  |
| <b>Plot</b>             | A young and gentle bull, Ferdinand, reacts with uncharacteristic violence when he is stung by a bee; he is mistaken for a fierce bull and taken to the bullfights in Madrid, where he prefers to sit in the arena sniffing the fragrant air than to fight the matadors.   |
| <b>Setting</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Spanish meadow</li> <li>• A bullfighting arena in Madrid</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Characters</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ferdinand and the other young bulls in his meadow</li> <li>• Ferdinand's mother</li> <li>• Five men in funny hats</li> <li>• The Bumblebee</li> <li>• The Banderilleros, who thrust decorated darts called banderillas into the bull's shoulders and neck during a bullfight</li> <li>• The Picadores, bullfighters on horseback who prick the bull with a lance to weaken it for the matador</li> <li>• The Matador, the bullfighter who must ultimately kill the bull</li> </ul> |
| <b>Conflict</b>         | Man (Ferdinand) vs. Nature (what it is to be a bull)  |
| <b>Theme</b>            | Things are not always what they seem.<br>Pacifism   |
| <b>Literary Devices</b> | Dramatic irony – The reader knows more about Ferdinand than the men in the funny hats.<br>Circumstantial irony – Ferdinand is not what one expects of a bull.   |