Snows of Kilimanjaro

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Read the epigraph again and discuss the significance of the epigraph for the story. For example, what does the leopard stand for, what the “Ngaje Ngai”, the house of Gods?
2. The flashback: a narrative technique from the genre film. What is the function of the flashback in this text? Do you see it as a retreat into the past or an escape? – Be specific in your response.
3. Hemingway has always been obsessed with “death” in his writing. So is “Harry” in this story. What does Harry say about death? Which symbols of death can you find in this story? Is it actually a story about “death”?
4. Have a look at “interior monologues” in this story. Try to find out how many there are, what they are about and what their function might be in the narrative structure of the text.
5. What is Harry's attitude and view of his own life: is he frustrated, bitter, dissatisfied, disappointed of himself? Did he meet/ live up to his own expectations?
6. Try to link the “double ending” with the epigraph at the beginning of the story.

What interest/ purpose may Hemingway have had for the ambiguous ending of the story?

Try to pin down the point in the text where Harry is dying/ is dead. Perhaps there are not “two” endings but different perspectives of the same event.

1. In which way is Harry an “anti-hero” (NOTE: *The Hemingway Hero is always courageous, confident, and introspective. and he does not let his fears get to him*)?
2. The overall relationship of Harry & Helen:

How did it start?

What brought them together?

What drives them apart?

What was/is his role in her life and vice versa?

Why does he hate her in the end? - Or does he rather hate himself?

Who or what destroyed Harry's talent? - Who does he blame?

1. Is “The Snows of Kilmanjaro” a short novel or a longish short-story? List arguments which support your opinion.