

## *THE GREAT GATSBY* ACTIVITY PACKET

### OVERVIEW

As we read *The Great Gatsby*, you will be expected to complete **all** of the critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis activities in this packet. In addition to receiving classwork grades for your work on each of the nine chapters in the novel, your completed assignments will be submitted on the day of the unit exam; collectively, they will be worth **one test grade**.

Additionally, you will be responsible for learning **all** of the words in the vocabulary section of this packet. You will be assessed over these words with objective questions on the chapter quizzes and on the unit test that you will take over the next few weeks.

As the activities in this packet will comprise a **significant** portion of your grade, it is fully expected that you adhere to **all** of the following guidelines:

- ❑ **Do not lose this packet.** Students who lose this packet will be expected to print a new one of the teacher's website on their **own** time and with their own printer before or after class.
- ❑ Unless otherwise specifically directed, respond to **all** of the questions, prompts, etc. in this packet in **complete sentences**. Students will not receive credit for responses written in incomplete sentence.
- ❑ Complete the chapter assignments in a **timely manner**. While we will answer many of the questions in this packet as a class, you will be expected to complete some of the activities independently. Do not wait until the last minute to do so or you will not get credit for the individual classwork grades when the various chapter assignments are checked during class.
- ❑ **Bring this packet to class with you every day.** We will be working on these assignments on a daily basis throughout the unit.
- ❑ Write **neatly** and be professional. You will lose points on the individual assignments and the collective test grade if your packet is crumpled or torn, if you have drawn all over it, or if your handwriting is illegible.

Students who follow all of the directions above have a wonderful opportunity to earn a very high grade on an assignment which will count as a test. My expectation is that all of my students take full advantage of this opportunity to improve their average for the second semester of English III.

## VOCABULARY WORDS FOR *THE GREAT GATSBY*

### CHAPTER ONE

**abortive** – fruitless; cut short  
**complacency** – self-satisfaction  
**contemptuously** – hateful  
**incredulously** – skeptically  
**supercilious** – coolly conceited

### CHAPTER TWO

**anemic** – lacking vitality  
**incessant** – constant; nonstop  
**obscure** – vague  
**strident** – harsh and insistent  
**vicinity** – surrounding area

### CHAPTER THREE

**discordant** – clashing  
**malevolence** – ill will  
**ineptly** – foolishly  
**permeate** – spread through  
**vehemently** – powerfully; avidly

### CHAPTER FOUR

**denizen** – regular/frequent visitor  
**gilt** – golden  
**inevitably** – unavoidably  
**punctilious** – careful; exacting  
**sporadic** – infrequent

### CHAPTER FIVE

**gaudily** – flashily  
**harrowed** – tormented  
**nebulous** – indistinct; unclear  
**obstinate** – not easily subdued  
**scanty** – less than sufficient

### CHAPTER SIX

**conceit** – fanciful ideas  
**ineffable** – indescribable  
**laudable** – praiseworthy  
**notoriety** – fame  
**ramifications** – consequences

### CHAPTER SEVEN

**boisterously** – rowdily  
**irreverent** – lacking apt respect  
**perturbed** – bothered  
**morbid** – gloomy; gruesome  
**stagnant** – stale

### CHAPTER EIGHT

**amorphous** – shapeless  
**benediction** – blessing  
**fortuitous** – by chance  
**pandered** – gratified  
**transitory** – brief; temporary

### CHAPTER NINE

**rasping** – abrasively irritatingly  
**bulbous** – bulb-like  
**reverent** – awed and respectful  
**superfluous** – extra; unnecessary  
**surmise** – conclude; infer

## QUESTIONS FOR A&E VIDEO BIOGRAPHY OF F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

1. How did the failures of F. Scott's father affect his life and attitudes?
2. Why are the 1920s known as the "Roaring Twenties." What made this decade so different from the decade before or after it?
3. How did the "Jazz Age," a moniker Fitzgerald coined, provide a climate favorable to his work?
4. Although he attended the finest schools, Fitzgerald came from a modest background. How did he use his budding literary talents to gain social acceptance during his schooldays?
5. Zelda Fitzgerald was the quintessential "Southern belle" during her youth. What is a "Southern belle?" How does it reflect cultural differences between the northern and southern regions of the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
6. How was Fitzgerald a spokesperson for his generation? Can you compare him with any celebrity today who is a spokesperson for his/her generation?
7. Although Ernest Hemingway and Fitzgerald were friends, why was there a jealous tension between them? Had they collaborated, how could they have used their jealousy to create a great work?
8. The "Roaring Twenties" gave way to the Great Depression of the 1930s. How did F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's lives mirror the historical timeline of their era?
9. How did Fitzgerald draw on his own life experiences to create his characters and plot lines?
10. How did alcoholism play a role in the destruction of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald's lives?

# CORNELL NOTES – HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT FOR *THE GREAT GATSBY* THE ROARING 20'S

## DIRECTIONS

After closely reading “The Roaring 20’s – Historical and Literary Context for *The Great Gatsby*,” complete the Cornell Notes in the spaces provided. You may record your notes in a bulleted list, but be sure you respond to all aspects of the questions. These notes will be very helpful to you throughout our study of *The Great Gatsby*, particularly on the unit assessments – so do your best!

CORNELL NOTES – HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT FOR <i>THE GREAT GATSBY</i>	
QUESTION	NOTES
1. How can economic growth in the 1920s be described?	
2. What are <i>three</i> differences between the 1920's and today?	
3. How did the radio affect consumer culture in the 1920s?	
4. What businesses prospered as a result of the automobile?	
5. What unintended affects did prohibition have?	
6. Why did middle-class, white America support prohibition?	
7. Why were critics of the 1920s rebellion faced with large opposition?	

## CORNELL NOTES – HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT FOR *THE GREAT GATSBY*

QUESTION	NOTES
8. What modern ideas developed during the 20s sexual revolution?	
9. What was considered unladylike in the 1920's	
10. What new freedoms did women have in the 1920s?	
11. What pastime did the youth of America enjoy during the 1920s?	
12. What is the origin of jazz and with what is it associated?	
13. What is the Harlem Renaissance what were its effects?	
14. Who coined the phrase "The Lost Generation" and why?	
15. How can "The Lost Generation" be defined?	
16. Who are <i>five</i> of the writers most often associated with "The Lost Generation"?	

**CORNELL NOTES – HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT FOR *THE GREAT GATSBY***

QUESTION	NOTES
<p><b>17.</b> How did “The Lost Generation” writers criticize their Culture?</p>	
<p><b>18.</b> By what belief were Modernists driven, and what intensified it?</p>	
<p><b>19.</b> How can Modernism be defined?</p>	
<p><b>20.</b> What are two experimental literary forms of Modernists?</p>	
<p><b>21.</b> What does Ezra Pound’s “Make it new” motto mean?</p>	
<p><b>22.</b> What was Scott and Zelda’s early relationship like (before marriage)?</p>	
<p><b>23.</b> How did alcoholism affect Fitzgerald’s reputation?</p>	
<p><b>24.</b> How did Zelda’s mental health affect her marriage?</p>	
<p><b>25.</b> Why is Fitzgerald now one of America’s enduring writers?</p>	

## FITZGERALD AND ME – AGREE OR DISAGREE?

Determine whether you agree or disagree with each statement and why. Then, decide whether Fitzgerald would agree or disagree and why. Circle your choices and complete the sentences with your explanations.

1. **When one comes by wealth illegally, he or she is likely to pay for it in the end.**

I **agree** / **disagree** because

Fitzgerald would **agree** / **disagree** because

2. **Geography determines a person's level of sophistication.**

I **agree** / **disagree** because

Fitzgerald would **agree** / **disagree** because

3. **It is no longer possible to attain the American Dream without compromising traditional moral values.**

I **agree** / **disagree** because

Fitzgerald would **agree** / **disagree** because

4. **If you truly love another person long enough, you will eventually have a happy life together.**

I **agree** / **disagree** because

Fitzgerald would **agree** / **disagree** because

5. **There is no difference between a family that has been wealthy for generations and one which was poor until just recently.**

I **agree** / **disagree** because

Fitzgerald would **agree** / **disagree** because

## SETTING MAP: *THE GREAT GATSBY*

### DIRECTIONS

As you read *The Great Gatsby*, complete the following chart for the various settings in the novel. Be sure to completely record a description, in the form of textual evidence, and the significance, or your analysis of the settings' importance.

SETTING	PAGE	DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE
Buchanan's house	6	"...a cheerful red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion, overlooking the bay. The lawn started at the beach and ran toward the front door...over sun-dials and brick walks and burning gardens...drifting up the side in bright vines as though from the momentum of its run..."	Personification is used to make the Buchanan palace seem alive. The lawn appears as a runner, starting at the beach, jumping over sun-dials, running up the wall of the house, drawing the reader and Nick toward the house, giving the impression things are alive here.
East Egg			
Gatsby's House			
Hotel in New York			
Long Island Sound			
Valley of Ashes			
West Egg			
T.J. Eckleberg Billboard			
Tom and Myrtle's Apartment			

# CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYSIS FOR *THE GREAT GATSBY*

## CHAPTER I

1. In Chapter One we met the narrator, Nick Carraway. These first four paragraphs serve as a prologue that introduces the rest of the story. What information does Nick give us about himself in this prologue?
2. What does Nick say is "*gorgeous*" about Gatsby?
3. What is Nick's socioeconomic background?
4. When Nick returns from the war, why does he decide to go East?
5. How is West Egg different from East Egg?
6. Before meeting him, what do we learn of Tom Buchanan?
7. What is Daisy's most noticeable feature? Find and record the words used to describe it.
8. At this point, what is your opinion of Daisy?
9. What negative feature of Jordan Baker's personality is revealed when we find out Tom has a woman in New York?



10. Why is Nick's instinct "*to telephone immediately for the police*"?
11. What three sentences indicate that Nick thinks Daisy's cynical outburst is fake?
12. What is the reader left to think about Daisy's emotional state and her relationship with Tom?
13. Who is Jordan Baker, and what has Nick heard about her?
14. As Nick drives away from their house, he experiences a number of conflicting emotions. Why does he feel touched? Why does he feel confused and disgusted?
15. The differences between the East (the East Coast, particularly New York) and the Midwest (Minneapolis, Louisville, and Chicago) are mentioned frequently. What does Nick say about each? Compare and contrast these geographical areas in the following chart.

MIDWEST	EAST

## CHAPTER II

1. The description of the “valley of ashes” opens Chapter Two. On a literal level, what is the valley of ashes? What might it represent on a symbolic level?
2. Compare and contrast George Wilson and Tom Buchanan. Record your observations in the following chart; use textual evidence when appropriate

<b>GEORGE WILSON</b>	<b>TOM BUCHANAN</b>

3. Compare and contrast Myrtle Wilson and Daisy Buchanan. Record your observations in the following chart; use textual evidence when appropriate

<b>MYRTLE WILSON</b>	<b>DAISY BUCHANAN</b>

4. In what way does Fitzgerald indicate that Myrtle Wilson is not an intellectual?
5. In what way is the party in the apartment different from the dinner at the Buchanans' in Chapter One? In what way is it similar?
6. Do you think Tom will leave Daisy for Myrtle? Support your answer.

### CHAPTER III

1. Find support for this statement: "*Gatsby's parties were expensive, elaborate, raucous affairs; but they were not gatherings of his friends who brought warmth and happiness with them.*"
  
2. What is Nick's opinion of the people at the parties when he says "*that once there, the guests "conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks"*? Explain Nick's comment, "*It was testimony to the romantic speculation he [Gatsby] inspired that there were whispers about him from those who had found little that it was necessary to whisper about in this world.*"
  
3. What is the great quality in Gatsby's smile?
  
4. What do Gatsby and Nick have in common?
  
5. What does Fitzgerald subtly wish to convey about Gatsby when he has Nick say, "*...I was looking at an elegant young roughneck...whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd. Some time before he introduced himself I'd got a strong impression that he was picking his words with care*"?
  
6. In what way is Gatsby's behavior at his party quite unlike the behavior of most of his guests?
  
7. What do you think Fitzgerald wishes to convey about Gatsby's parties through the incident with the drunks and the car and the husbands and wives arguing?
  
8. What is the purpose of the last section of this chapter that begins, "*Reading over what I have written so far...*"?

## CHAPTER IV

1. Since most of his guests ignore him, why do they come to Gatsby's house?
2. In the list of guests, what indication is there that the old money is in East Egg and the new money in West Egg?
3. Why is Nick a little disappointed with Gatsby?
4. Why does Nick want to laugh when Gatsby says he is "*trying to forget something very sad that happened to him*"?
5. Why does Nick say that listening to him "*was like skimming hastily through a dozen magazines*"?
6. What changes Nick's mind about the veracity of Gatsby's stories?
7. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim, and what do we know of him?
8. How does Daisy behave the night before her wedding? Why?
9. From whom do you suppose the letter in her hand comes, and what do you think the letter may have said?
10. What is happening in the relationship between Nick and Jordan?

## CHAPTER V

1. In this chapter, what stages does Gatsby go through as he waits for and then meets with Daisy? Use specific details from the text to support your response.
  
2. How does Daisy react to the meeting with Gatsby? Does she react the way you would expect her to? Why or why not? Be sure to point out several specific details throughout the chapter to support your response.
  
3. When Nick asks Gatsby what business he is in, Gatsby responds, *"That's my affair,"* before he realizes that it is not an appropriate reply. Why do you think Gatsby initially gives that answer to Nick's question? Why *is not* it an appropriate reply?
  
4. Why does Gatsby throw all his shirts on the table? What *really* causes Daisy to cry?
  
5. As Nick, Gatsby, and Daisy look across the bay toward the Buchanan's' house, the narrator states, *"Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. How it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one."* what does Fitzgerald mean by:
  - a. *"Compared to the great distance"* between Gatsby and Daisy?
  
  - b. *"Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one?"*
  
6. In the third to last paragraph of this chapter what does Nick mean when he says, *"even that afternoon Daisy tumbled short of his dreams—not through her own fault..."*?

## CHAPTER VI

1. In the first five pages of Chapter Six, we learn of Gatsby's background and more about his romantic disposition:
  - a. Who are Gatsby's parents and what is he leaving when he leaves home at 16?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. When and why does James Gatz change his name to Jay Gatsby?
  
2. To young Gatz, what does Dan Cody's yacht represent?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why does Gatsby not get the \$25,000 left him in Cody's will?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Knowing Tom as we do, how can we account for his comment about being "*old-fashioned*" and "*women run[ning] around too much these days to suit [him]*"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is Daisy's opinion of Gatsby's party?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. While the reader can have easily predicted Daisy and Tom's reactions to his party, Gatsby cannot. Why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. When Gatsby says that he cannot make Daisy understand, what is it that he wants her to understand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is Nick's view of repeating the past, and what is Gatsby's opinion? Why is Gatsby's opinion unrealistic?

## CHAPTER VII

1. How is the behavior of the characters linked to the hottest day of the summer?
2. What does Tom discover that unnerves him, and how does he discover it?
3. What does Gatsby understand about Daisy's voice that Nick does not?
4. In what cars do the five of them travel into the city?
5. Why do you suppose that Tom decides to let Wilson finally have the car he has been promising him?
6. What indication is there at this point that Tom means quite a bit to Myrtle?
7. Besides Myrtle's, what other eyes "*kept their vigil*"?
8. As always, there is a grain of truth in what Gatsby says. In what sense is he an Oxford man?
9. What does Nick mean and why does he say, "*Angry as I was..., I was tempted to laugh whenever [Tom] opened his mouth. The transition from libertine to prig was so complete*"?

10. Why does Daisy have a tough time saying, as Gatsby wishes, that she never loved Tom?
  
11. Why is it important to Gatsby that Daisy say she never loved Tom, only him?
  
12. How has Gatsby gotten some of his money, and what does Tom say that startles Gatsby?
  
13. Why does Tom make the point to Wilson that he just drove the coupe from New York and the yellow car is not his?
  
14. What does the reader learn Tom does not know?
  
15. What is the scene that Nick observes taking place between Tom and Daisy in the kitchen? Why does this scene suggest about the relationship between Daisy and Gatsby?

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## CHAPTER VIII

1. In what way is Gatsby's uniform an "*invisible cloak*"?
  
2. Why is the young Gatsby drawn to Daisy?
  
3. As he is leaving, why does Nick say to Gatsby, "*They're a rotten crowd.... You're worth the whole damn bunch put together*"?



4. What is the cause of the problem between Jordan and Nick?
  
5. In what context do Dr. Eckleburg's eyes appear in this chapter?
  
6. When Wilson disappears for three hours, where do you guess he might have gone?
  
7. How can Wilson's actions at the end of this chapter be explained?

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## CHAPTER IX

1. Why does Nick feel responsible for getting people to the funeral? Why does Wolfsheim reacts the way he does?
  
2. What does young Jimmy Gatz's daily schedule say about him?
  
3. Is Nick surprised that Daisy has not sent a message or flowers? Are you?
  
4. Throughout the story, Nick has criticized the West. At this point, what does he appreciate about it?
  
5. Nick's fantastic dream involves El Greco figures. What is the dream, and what might this dream represent in regard to Nick's present feelings about the East?

6. What is Nick's final feeling about Tom and Daisy?
  
7. In the last three paragraphs, Nick makes the symbol of the green light very concrete. What does the green light symbolize?
  
8. Keeping the last three paragraphs in mind, what does the last sentence in the story mean?

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## LITERARY ELEMENTS FROM *THE GREAT GATSBY*

**PLOT.** Record the main plot events from *The Great Gatsby* in the spaces provided.

**Exposition:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rising Action:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Climax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Falling Action:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Denouement::** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MOTIFS.** List three of the motifs in *The Great Gatsby*. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**SYMBOLS.** List three of the symbols in *The Great Gatsby*. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**FORESHADOWING.** List three examples of foreshadowing in *The Great Gatsby*. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**THEME.** List three possible theme statements from *The Great Gatsby*. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_