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Advanced Placement in
English Literature and Composition

Teaching Unit
Individual Learning Packet

The Great Gatsby

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Written by Kay Hampson

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The Great Gatsby

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the nuances that contribute to a character's development;

2. trace the development of the character of Nick, noting that he is the only dynamic character;

3. examine Jay Gatsby as a Byronic/Romantic hero;

4. examine Jay Gatsby as a twentieth-century tragic hero;

5. examine the irony of the title, *The Great Gatsby;*

6. examine the techniques used to establish Nick as a credible narrator;

7. discuss the structural development of the novel;

8. construct interpretations of motifs and symbols (e.g. Doctor T. J. Eckleburg's eyes, the green light, the defunct clock);

9. discuss Fitzgerald's use of weather to reflect human emotions and conditions;

10. identify, discuss, and support from the text the major themes:
    A. the decline of the American dream;
    B. the hollowness of the upper class;
    C. the stratification of the social classes;

11. explain the concept of a foil and show how Tom is a foil for Jay Gatsby;

12. identify either Gatsby and/or Nick as the protagonist and defend the choice;

13. analyze the extent to which *The Great Gatsby* reflects Fitzgerald's life;

14. identify the social issues and discuss the techniques that Fitzgerald uses to address and expose them:
    A. domestic violence
    B. changing moral standards
    C. racism

15. investigate the use of the following literary and rhetorical devices:
    - simile
    - motif
    - hyperbole
    - metaphor
    - foil
    - satire
    - personification
    - irony
    - asyndeton
    - polysyndeton
    - anaphora
    - metonymy
    - oxymoron
    - zeitgeist
    - analogy
    - connotation
    - alliteration
    - prologue
    - caricature
    - denotation
    - dynamic character
    - static character

16. respond to multiple choice questions similar to those that will appear on the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam;

17. respond to writing prompts similar to those that will appear on the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam.

BACKGROUND LECTURE

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (1896 – 1940)

- Born in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 24, 1896.

- His father, Edward Fitzgerald, had charm and elegance but little money. His mother, Mollie McQuillen Fitzgerald, was an Irish immigrant. Her family was financially secure, but she did not prefer society life. The Fitzgeralds lived on the outskirts of a wealthy neighborhood, and although Scott played with the rich children, he was never totally accepted by them.

- The family moved to New York in search of work. When Scott was about 12 years old, they moved back to St. Paul.

- In 1908, Scott entered St. Paul Academy where he excelled in debate and athletics. During this time, he published some articles and three stories. Over the next ten years, Fitzgerald experienced several literary achievements, but also experienced academic decline.

- He joined the Navy and was stationed at Camp Sheridan.

- In 1918, Fitzgerald met and fell in love with eighteen-year-old Zelda Sayre. Zelda refused to marry Scott because he did not have the means to finance the kind of lifestyle she was used to. She waited for a short time, but eventually broke off their engagement.

- In 1919, Fitzgerald returned home to Minnesota. He wrote and published *This Side of Paradise,* in 1920.

- One week after the novel's release, Fitzgerald and Zelda were married in New York. One year later, Zelda gave birth to their only daughter. The family lived an extravagant lifestyle that included much drinking and many parties. Their domestic life was turbulent, largely due to the couple's heavy alcohol consumption, bordering on alcoholism. They their time in America and Europe.

- The monies from the sale of *This Side of Paradise* began to run out so Scott wrote and sold short stories. In 1925, Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby,* his most famous work.

- *The Great Gatsby,* a story that takes on the intensity of a poem, is the American equivalent of *The Waste Land*, a postwar vision of England by T. S. Eliot.

- Major works of Fitzgerald include:
  - *This Side of Paradise,* published in1920, was based largely on Fitzgerald's experiences and observations at Princeton.
  - *The Beautiful and the Damned,* published in 1922, was first serialized in Metropolitan Magazine.
  - *Tender is the Night* was published in 1932.
  - *The Last Tycoon*, published posthumously in 1941, is a novel based on his experiences in Hollywood.

- In 1930, Zelda experienced the first of three mental breakdowns. After her breakdown in 1934, She remained institutionalized for the remainder of her life, draining what funds the Fitzgeralds did have.

- Fitzgerald remained married to Zelda until his death, but he met and fell in love with Sheilah Graham, a movie columnist. She helped revive Fitzgerald's writing career and spent the last few years of his life with him.

- In 1940, F. Scott Fitzgerald died. He had virtually slipped into literary oblivion. In many ways, his death was like Gatsby's. The obituaries written about him were condescending and focused on many of his hardships. Friends were nowhere to be found.

The Roaring Twenties

The 1920s went by such names as:

the Roaring Twenties: The United States' overall success in World War I, the survival of the worldwide influenza epidemic of 1918, and an apparently strong economy led to a period of strong optimism and a new funseeking attitude.

the Jazz Age: The popularity of the new Jazz music of New Orleans and Chicago, dances like the Charleston, combined with the relaxing moral code and the general feeling of optimism created the feeling of a neverending social party.

the Age of Intolerance: The losses—both financial and in human—associated with World War I left the United States unwilling to entangle itself again into the affairs of foreign nations. The U.S. refusal to join the League of Nations was evidence of this new isolationist policy. Immigration rules and quotas were tightened. There was also a concerted effort to pursue and unmask spies, usually Communists or "Reds." The "us and them" mentality resulted in the revitalizing of such supremacist organizations as the KKK.

the Age of Wonderful Nonsense: It was the age of flappers and bathtub gin, an age of prosperity, and a time of moral and sexual revolution.

Much of what was considered "roaring" about "The Roaring Twenties," however, contained the seeds of the 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Consumerism:

- mass-production and chain stores drove down prices and encouraged consumers to spend
- the concept of credit was being used to help more Americans buy durable goods such as cars and stoves. The lenders, of course, charged interest so that the total cost of the item was far more in the end than if it had been purchased for cash.
- runaway consumer credit was part of the overload that resulted in the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- Americans were also spending more money on entertainment, especially the movies. The technology that made the "talkies" possible (Phonofilm) became commercially available in 1922. President Calvin Coolidge and several famous vaudeville performers appeared in these early sound-films. In 1927, Al Jolson's *The Jazz Singer*, the first commercially-released "talkie," changed the motion picture industry forever.

Economic Policies:

- In 1920, for the first time in United States history, more people were living in cities than on farms. Presidents Warren G. Harding (1921 – 1923), Calvin Coolidge (1923 – 1929), and Herbert Hoover (1929 – 1933) supported big business and passed legislation that benefited large corporations, often at the expense of small businesses and farmers.

- Harding's "return to normalcy" after World War I did little to address social and economic problems facing thousands of Americans.

- The Harding Administration's Teapot Dome Scandal illustrated the extent to which greed and the desire to accumulate wealth quickly were the governing principals of post-World-War I America.

- Calvin Coolidge especially favored a *laissez faire* attitude toward big business, thus allowing for credit and investment abuses that would lead to the 1929 crash.

Prohibition, Organized Crime, and Gatsby's Fortune:

The Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transportation of "*intoxicating liquors*" in the United States was ratified on January 16, 1919, and the Volstead Act, which defined the phrase "intoxicating liquors," thus making the amendment enforceable, was passed on October 28, 1919. Prohibition began on January 16, 1920, when the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect.

Never a popular law (even President Calvin Coolidge, who, as a senator, had voted *for* both the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act, kept his White House well-stocked with illegal liquor), there were enough loopholes in the legislation to allow most people to acquire and consume as least as much alcohol as they had before:

- Prohibition banned only the manufacture, sale, and transport, not the possession or consumption of alcohol. This left many opportunities for abuse open.
- Alcoholic drinks were widely available at "speakeasies" and other underground drinking establishments. Speakeasies were named for the fact that a patron had to "speak easy" and convince the doorman to let him or her in.
- Federal Prohibition Agents had no forced-entry rights, and so could not break into a drinking establishment if the doorman refused them entry.
- Large amounts of alcohol were smuggled in from Canada.
- Home brewing of beer and wine was popular during Prohibition.
- Commercial wine was still produced in the U.S., but was only available through government warehouses, supposedly for use in religious ceremonies.
- Whiskey was available by prescription. Although the labels clearly warned that it was for "medicinal purposes" only and that other uses were illegal, doctors freely wrote prescriptions and druggists filled them without question.
- Over a million gallons per year of whiskey were prescribed and consumed.
- This discrepancy between law and actual practice contributed to the widespread disdain for authority that had accompanied the return of World War I servicemen.
- Because the Prohibition laws did little to change the behavior of the citizenry, but eliminated all government regulation of an entire industry, Prohibition presented an enormous opportunity for organized crime to take over the importation, manufacture, and distribution of alcoholic beverages. The infamous gangster Al Capone built his criminal empire largely on profits from trafficking in illegal alcohol.
- Some Prohibition agents took bribes to overlook the illegal brewing activities of gangsters.
- It had originally been estimated that it would cost six million dollars to enforce prohibition laws. Over time, however, as more people drank illegally and the profits from the manufacture, transportation, and sale of liquor went to organized crime, gangsters would bribe officials to ignore their illegal activities, and the cost of enforcing prohibition laws increased.
- Fitzgerald never specifies how Gatsby manages to amass such an enormous fortune in the short span of five years. Certainly, the economy of the day would have allowed for overnight riches on the stock market, but there are also suggestions in the novel that Gatsby is and has been involved in illegal activities, quite possibly bootlegging—illegal trafficking in the manufacture, transport, and sale of alcohol.

NOTES ON FITZGERALD'S STYLE, SETTING, AND THEMES

- Fitzgerald is known for his imagistic and poetic prose. His topics were largely influenced by his surroundings and experiences.

- Fitzgerald uses motifs and symbols throughout the novel that are significant to the development of his themes. The motif of geography plays an important role in defining social stratification. Weather is used to reflect human conditions. The green light and the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg are mentioned several times; the meaning changes or signifies different things to different characters and to the reader.

- Three things to note are names, dates, and ages. Names are one of the important tools that Fitzgerald uses to enhance character development. Dates and ages help to define the beginning and ending of the dreams, and tie Fitzgerald's life's happenings into Gatsby's life and the 1920s.

- The setting of the story is in the summer of 1922, near New York City, in the towns of West Egg and East Egg.

- *The Great Gatsby*, in order to be fully appreciated, must be examined in its full historical context, as the 1920s was an era of great change.

  Politically, the 1920s were a time of growth, prosperity, and corruption. Growth for the 1920s included financial and population growth. Financially, there was rampant materialism. Post-World-War-I manufacturing flourished, producing cars, radios, telephones. Consumer goods flooded the market, and people bought and bought. Professional sports grew in popularity as people spent more and more money on entertainment. Immigration, which had subsided during the war, increased drastically. The threat of differing political ideas and the loss of American jobs to foreigners created an intense dislike of outsiders.

  In 1919, the scandal with the World Series involving the White Sox rocked the sports world. Warren G. Harding's administration was plagued by scandal and corruption. During Prohibition, when the illegal liquor business became lucrative, organized crime stepped in to fill the need.

  The nineteenth amendment, which granted women the right to vote, changed the nature of American politics and society. Women, who had held factory jobs during the war, had no intention of returning home. They "bobbed" their hair and threw out their corsets. They took up smoking and drinking. The face of motherhood changed. Immorality was widespread. Women everywhere were challenging traditional notions of femininity.

- Fitzgerald exposes but leaves undeveloped three social issues: racism, domestic violence, and the loosening moral standards of the "Roaring Twenties."

- Fitzgerald makes several allusions that should be researched and understood as they add depth to a reading of the novel.

  On page 9 – An allusion to Theodore Lothrop Stoddard's *The Rising Tide of Color Against White World Supremacy.*

  On page 32 – An allusion to Kaiser Wilhelm

  On page 70 – An allusion to Rosy Rosenthal, a small time gambler involved with the underworld.

  On page 73 – An allusion to the "Black Sox" team of 1919 and the fixing of the World Series.

  On page 113 – An allusion to Trimalchio

- Themes addressed are:

  The Decline of the American Dream: Although on the surface *Gatsby* may seem like a thwarted love story, it is a highly symbolic discourse on the 1920s, a period of great prosperity and material excess. At one point, the American Dream was about discovery, individualism, and the pursuit of happiness, but this was corrupted by easy money and an overall relaxing of social values. In Gatsby, we see one who cannot capture his elusive dream. He is typical of many people in the 1920s.

  The Stratification of the Social Classes: Throughout the novel, Fitzgerald makes comparisons between *old money*, *new money*, and *no money*. Each of these groups has a specific place in society. No money, represented by Myrtle, tries to climb the ladder into the next class but is constantly thwarted by the new-money class. New money—Gatsby—is also trying to climb the social ladder, but meets the resistance of the old money, represented by Daisy and Tom. The motif of geography is used here to help develop this theme as each location represents a particular class of people.

  The Hollowness of the Upper Class: There are two classes of rich in this novel, newly rich and old aristocracy, but there is one trait they share: they are spiritually and emotionally hollow. Fitzgerald portrays new money as loud, rowdy, lacking in social graces, wearing pink suits, owning monstrously ornate mansions, and driving flashy cars. He portrays old money as having social graces, subtlety, elegance, tasteful homes, and beautiful clothing. But, however good old money looks on the outside, it looks doubly as empty on the inside. Old aristocracy lack heart and are careless and inconsiderate.

- Understanding the setting of *The Great Gatsby* is important to understanding the overall meaning. Political, social, and economic changes marked the 1920s, forever changing the face of America. Fitzgerald's story, although fiction, is informed by reality, making it one of the most treasured literary works of the early twentieth century.

NOTES ON THE BYRONIC HERO

Romantic poet Lord Byron (George Gordon) is credited with the development of the prototypical anti-hero, referred to as the Byronic hero. Like Childe Harold in Byron's popular *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage,* the Byronic hero is a larger-than-life, but flawed character who could be considered, by traditional standards, to be a rebel. Typically the Byronic hero:

- exhibits conflicting emotions and excessive moodiness;
- is passionate about a particular issue;
- can be introspective and critical of himself;
- struggles with his own sense of integrity;
- operates largely within his own set of rules and principles;
- rejects accepted codes and norms of society;
- is fiercely independent and strongly individual;
- is a loner (whether imposed by society or self-imposed);
- displays a lack of respect for rank and privilege;
- has a troubled or mysterious past;
- can be cynical, demanding, and arrogant;
- exhibits self-destructive tendencies and behavior.

This hyper-sensitive loner, obsessively following a quest—which, being a Romantic Quest, is doomed to failure—usually ends up dead at the end of his story, either as the unintended consequence of the hero's own choices and actions, or as a conscious choice.

Gatsby's quest for Daisy, the uncertainty surrounding how he amassed so vast a fortune so quickly, his aloofness around everyone except the Object of his Quest, the fact that it is not enough that Daisy love him but that she must also declare that she never loved Tom, and his disdain for the traditional moral and social class standards of his time all suggest Gatsby's status as a Byronic hero.

NOTES ON THE TRAGIC HERO

The **tragic hero**, according to Aristotle, was a man (god, demi-god, hero, high-ranking official) who rises to a high position and then falls from that high position—usually to utter desolation and/or death. Two forces seem equally powerful in classical tragedy: the tragic hero's tragic flaw (or *hamartia*) and fate.

Some tragic heroes clearly bring about their own downfall, as in the case of Creon in *Antigone,* whose downfall is due to his hubris (excessive pride)—he believes his Law holds precedence over the gods' sense of Right.

Other tragic heroes seem to be more a pawn of Fate, like Oedipus who has done everything in his power (as had his parents before him) to prevent the fatal prophesy from coming to pass that Oedipus would murder his father and marry his mother. It is in the very act of trying to avoid destiny that the prophesy is fulfilled.

By the Renaissance, however, people generally felt themselves to be less pawns of fate and more in control of their own destinies. The Elizabethan tragic hero, therefore, is much more often responsible for his own downfall. This "waste of human potential" as it were seems to be much more tragic to the Elizabethans than the vagaries of fate.

Thus, in Shakespeare's tragedies, we have a Macbeth who is, by nature, a man of action and *chooses* a course of action that results in his being plagued by guilt, his wife's insanity and suicide, and eventually, his own death. We have a Hamlet, a man of ideas, who is called to action and, finding himself unable to act, watches while his entire society collapses around him, and he himself is killed.

By the middle of the twentieth century, however, the concept of what was at the root of the tragic situation was again being examined. In his article, "Tragedy and the Common Man," playwright Arthur Miller asserts that his character, Willie Lowman, is a tragic hero. According to Miller, the hero's tragic flaw is really nothing more than his attempt to gain, or regain, what he considers to be his rightful status in society.

Looked at this way, Macbeth (following the prediction of the witches and Duncan's promise in I, iv: "I have begun to plant thee and will labor to make thee full of growing...") *believes it is his rightful place to be king of Scotland.* When he is not named heir to Duncan's throne, he acts as he believes he must in order to *become* king, and then he continues to act as he believes he must in order to *remain* king. His tragedy, then, lies in his desire to gain and maintain what *he believes to be his rightful status.*

So, too, with Hamlet. He has been alienated from his mother's love. From his very first line in the play, Hamlet bemoans his mother's marriage to Claudius far more than he grieves for his father or for the loss of his throne. The madness, rebellion, and carnage that surround him are all the result of his desire—and inability—to find a way to reinstate himself in the affections of his mother.

Jay Gatsby, then, in that he sacrifices everything (including his life) to secure his "rightful" place as Daisy's true lover, is a tragic hero. Everything he has done in the five years before the novel's beginning, and everything he does throughout the course of the novel, is for the sole purpose of having Daisy declare that she *does* love Gatsby and that she *never* loved Tom. When Gatsby fails to achieve his goal—when he fails to attain the status of sole love that he believes is his—his world falls apart, and he is killed as a result of his own decisions.

Thus, in the sense that Miller would codify little more than a decade after *The Great Gatsby*'s publication, Jay Gatsby can be examined as a tragic hero. According to Miller, the tragic hero exemplifies our "underlying fear of being displaced...torn away from our chosen image of what or who we are in this world."

Questions for Class Discussion or Essays

1. One of the techniques Fitzgerald uses to develop characters is choosing names that reflect specific character traits. How do the names of George Wilson, Daisy Fay, Wolfsheim, and Dan Cody contribute to the development of these characters?

2. In what ways is *The Great Gatsby* an autobiographical novel? Does the character of Nick or the character of Gatsby seem most like Fitzgerald? What other people or events mirror Fitzgerald's life?

3. Into what genre should *The Great Gatsby* be classified? Is it a tragedy? If so, what is the fatal flaw? Is it an autobiography? If so, which character is Fitzgerald? Use the text to explain and to support the genre you choose.

4. One of Fitzgerald's strengths comes from his imagistic style. Explore how he uses images to create contrasting moods at both Buchanan's palace and Gatsby's mansion. How does he bring the Buchanan palace to life? How does he create an amusement park atmosphere at Gatsby's mansion? How do the moods contribute to the theme of new money vs. old money?

5. Choose a character from the novel and discuss the nuances that contribute to the character's development.

6. Discuss the five plot elements and assign events from the story to each part of Freytag's Pyramid.

7. Nick assigns the name of "The Great Gatsby" to Jay Gatsby. Fitzgerald assigns the name to the novel. Discuss the irony of the title. What might be a better title?

8. Fitzgerald uses ages and dates to reflect the themes and ideas. Compare the ages and dated events within the text to the years representing the era, 1918 – 1930. Consider that Daisy turns 18 when she and Nick consummate their love. Consider that Nick turns thirty after Gatsby dies. How do their ages coincide with important dates in history? What do their ages represent? How do their ages compare with important dates from Fitzgerald's life? When did WWI end? When did the American Dream die?

9. Fitzgerald clearly draws parallels between geography, social values, and characters. What social values do West Egg, East Egg, New York City, the East, the West, and the Valley of Ashes represent? Which characters are associated with each?

10. Write an interpretation of the meaning of the new, real books on Nick's library shelves. Find the text and discuss the nuances implied by the titles of the books and the implications of the similes used to describe them.

11. Write an interpretation of the meaning of the real books on Gatsby's library shelves. How do they support one of the themes?

12. According to *The Great Gatsby*, what traits constitute the *zeitgeist* (spirit of the time) of the 1920s?

The Great Gatsby

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 1:

Read the passage on page 85 beginning with "Under the bare lilac trees…" and ending on page 89 with "It's stopped raining." Write a well-organized essay in which you explain how this episode can serve as a climax or turning point of the novel. Do not merely summarize the passage or offer a definition of climax.

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 2:

Read pages 69 read through page 72 . Write a well organized essay analyzing the methods that Fitzgerald uses to develop the character of Wolfsheim. Be certain not to summarize the plot or offer a mere character descrption.

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 3:

Reread the three passages: the paragraph on page 23 beginning with "But above the gray…;" the passage on page 122, beginning: "We were all irritable…," and ending on the top of page 125 at the break; and the passage beginning on 159: "I spoke to her…," ending at the break on page 160. Write a well-organized essay in which you examine how the significance of the billboard of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg evolves and what it ultimately contributes to the overall meaning of the work.

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 4:

Read the passage on page 78 beginning with "When Jordan Baker…" and ending with "He came alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor." In a well-organized essay, analyze Fitzgerald's use of figurative language in this passage and explain how the final metaphor contributes to the overall meaning of the novel.

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 5:

The technique of a first-person narrator presents certain problems of objectivity and reliability for the reader. Write a well-organized essay in which you examine the character of Gatsby as Nick perceives him. To what extent is Nick a reliable narrator, and is his evaluation of Gatsby ultimately just? Be certain not to summarize the plot or offer a mere character description.

PRACTICE FREE RESPONSE QUESTION 6:

Setting is often an important means for the novelist or playwright to communicate characters' ideals and attitudes. In a well-organized essay, explain what ideals and attitudes each of the three main settings of *The Great Gatsby* reflects and how each setting helps to establish your understanding of character.

PRACTICE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS 1 - 6

Read the passage beginning on page 6 with "Why they came East…" and ending on page 7 with "…defiant wistfulness of his own."

1. Tom's palace is brought alive by Fitzgerald's
   A. use of colorful language.
   B. use of personification.
   C. attention to verisimilitude.
   D. creation of beauty.
   E. choice of words.

2. The sentence "And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to East Egg to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all" (p. 6) contains a(n)
   A. oxymoron.
   B. example of verisimilitude.
   C. metaphor.
   D. anaphora.
   E. hyperbole.

3. Fitzgerald's description of Tom causes the reader to
   A. distrust Nick as a narrator.
   B. evaluate Tom as a rival to Nick.
   C. more fully appreciate Tom's importance.
   D. suspect Tom's capacity for violence.
   E. dislike Tom almost immediately.

4. Telling the reader "They spent a year in France" is an example of how Fitzgerald
   A. adds an international flavor to the novel.
   B. adds a geographical allusion.
   C. mirrors events in his own life.
   D. highlights the theme of immigration.
   E. mirrors events in Tom's life.

5. In the sentence "Not even the effeminate swank of his riding clothes could hide the enormous power of that body…", the best definition of the word "effeminate" is
   A. flashy.
   B. somewhat feminine looking.
   C. weak through overrefinement.
   D. absence of vigorous qualities.
   E. traditionally associated with women.

6. From this passage we can discern that
   A. Nick is very intimate with Tom and Daisy.
   B. Nick and Daisy are cousins.
   C. Nick's parents are friends with Tom's parents.
   D. Nick went to school with Tom.
   E. Nick graduated from New Haven.

PRACTICE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS 7 - 11

Read the passage beginning on the bottom of page 19 starting with "Of course I knew…." to the end of the chapter.

7. In the second paragraph, on page 20, Fitzgerald shifts the mood by
   A. using rhetorical devices.
   B. using alliteration.
   C. changing the focus of the reader to West Egg.
   D. changing the voice.
   E. using long, rhythmic sentences and vivid imagery.

8. The green light across the bay most likely
   A. simply means "go."
   B. symbolizes the "old money" of East Egg.
   C. symbolizes the American Dream.
   D. symbolizes a strong yearning of Gatsby's.
   E. has no particular meaning.

9. Nick leaves confused and disgusted. He is confused
   A. about why Tom would have another girl.
   B. because Daisy did not run out with the child in her arms.
   C. about why Tom was depressed by a book.
   D. about why he felt touched.
   E. because he loses track of where he is.

10. The passage helps to establish that Nick
   A. is sympathetic to other people's feelings.
   B. believes parenthood is important.
   C. is a true friend.
   D. is not affected by rumors.
   E. is a man of high moral character.

11. Nick knew it was Gatsby who emerged from the shadow because
   A. Jordan had described Gatsby accurately.
   B. he moved with surety.
   C. of the slight limp acquired during the war.
   D. he does not encroach on Nick's property.
   E. Nick has met him before.

PRACTICE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS 12 - 15

Read on page 40 from "At least once a fortnight…" to the middle of page 41 "…in a majestic hand."

12. "By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived, no thin five-piece affair, but a whole pitful of oboes and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornets and piccolos, and low and high drums" (p. 40) is an example of a(n)
    A. asyndeton.
    B. polysyndeton.
    C. zeugma.
    D. epistrophe.
    E. conduplicatio.

13. The thing that amazed Nick most about the party was the
    A. huge orchestra that played.
    B. many lights everywhere.
    C. fact that he had actually been invited.
    D. array of famous people.
    E. majestic signature of Gatsby.

14. Nick's comment that the people at the party "conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with an amusement park" suggests that they are
    A. from the lower social classes.
    B. young and reckless.
    C. Long Island beach vacationers.
    D. adventuresome thrill-seekers.
    E. riotous and rude.

15. In the sentence "Laughter is easier minute by minute, spilled with prodigality, tipped out at a cheerful word," prodigality most likely means
    A. extreme abundance.
    B. extravagant wastefulness.
    C. profuse generosity.
    D. excessive spending.
    E. extremely driven.

PRACTICE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS 16 - 20

Read from the last line on page 116 through the middle of page 118, ending with "…the abounding blessed isles."

16. The growing tension between Gatsby and Tom is represented in the passage by
    A. the setting's being in New York City.
    B. the introduction of Pammy.
    C. the choice of vocabulary.
    D. a description of the weather.
    E. Tom and Nick's friendship.

17. Gatsby points out the fact that he lives across the bay from Tom in order to
    A. suggest that Tom bring Daisy to a party.
    B. point out that he is an equal of Tom's.
    C. bring attention to his money.
    D. let Daisy know where he lives.
    E. make pleasant conversation.

18. What is Gatsby's response when he meets Pammy?
    A. exhilaration
    B. excitement
    C. wonderment
    D. boredom
    E. dislike

19. The introduction of Pammy suggests
    A. that Daisy cannot establish true personal relationships.
    B. the theme of the hollowness of the upper class.
    C. that Gatsby's dream is unattainable.
    D. that the reader's perception of Daisy has been wrong.
    E. the childlike innocence of the very rich.

20. The social issue highlighted by this passage is
    A. domestic violence.
    B. stock fraud.
    C. racism.
    D. immorality.
    E. poverty.

PRACTICE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS 21 - 25

Read from page 134, starting at "I glanced at Daisy…" and ending on page 136 after "So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight."

21. In the first paragraph, the words "killed a man" are in quotations marks to
    A. recall the outrageous rumors spread about Gatsby at his parties.
    B. foreshadow that Tom will kill a man.
    C. suggest that Tom has finally killed Gatsby's dream.
    D. establish once and for all that Gatsby had indeed killed a man.
    E. reveal that Tom believes Gatsby to be a killer.

22. Nick's statement, "I was thirty. Before me stretched the portentous, menacing road of a new decade." is significant because it
    A. foreshadows the stock market crash of 1929.
    B. signifies Nick's "coming of age."
    C. is Nick's realization that he will never marry.
    D. symbolically reflects the death of Gatsby's dream.
    E. symbolically signifies that all dreams die at 30.

23. The phrase "magnanimous scorn" in the statement "he [Tom] insisted [that Daisy ride with Gatsby] with magnanimous scorn" most likely means
    A. courageously noble in mind and heart.
    B. generous in forgiving even those who are not worthy.
    C. selfish and disdainful.
    D. understanding and tolerant.
    E. generous with contempt.

24. The simile describing Tom's voice "as remote from Jordan and [Nick] as the foreign clamor on the sidewalk or the tumult of the elevated overhead" serves to
    A. compare Tom's voice with urban cacophony.
    B. raise the question of immigration.
    C. emphasize Nick's altered perception of the situation.
    D. emphasize the confusion surrounding the present situation.
    E. establish the image of a crowded and noisy city.

25. The sentence, "So we drove on towards death through the cooling twilight," is
    A. a metaphor.
    B. an example of weather reflecting life.
    C. used to build suspense and foreshadow upcoming trouble.
    D. a zeugma.
    E. used to contrast the coolness of the evening from the heat of the day.

Answer Key with Explanations

1. Answers (D) and (E) are too general. Although the language describing Tom's palace is colorful (A) the vividness of the image does not necessarily call to mind any real place or lifestyle (C). The personification (B) of the lawn *running* toward the house, *jumping* over sundials and brick walls, and *drifting* up the walls in the form of vines emphasizes the virility and liveliness of the house, tying it clearly into the virile and muscular description of Tom that follows in the next paragraphs.

2. Since the expression "old friends" implies some longstanding and intimate knowledge, and "scarcely" indicates little knowledge, "two old friends whom I scarcely knew" is an example of an oxymoron (A).

3. (A) can be ruled out, as the reader does not yet have enough information about Tom to compare the established character with this first impression. Nick says that he always had the impression that Tom approved of him, thus eliminating the possibility of a rivalry (B). Tom's stance, spread-legged and in riding clothes would better suggest an air of self-importance, thus eliminating (C). (D) is tempting, but, while the passage does suggest *strength,* there is no reason yet to suspect a violent nature. The air of self-importance, however, combined with the suggestion that there are those who hate Tom, and Nick's description of Tom's condescending nature all point to (E) as the best answer.

4. The mere mention of a foreign country is not enough to create a "flavor," so (A) is eliminated. (B) is an incorrect use of the term "allusion." (E) would create a circuitous sentence—Nick tells the reader that Tom spent a year in France in order to mirror events in Tom's life. (D) is irrelevant as it is Americans traveling in France, not immigrants coming to the United States. Only (C) is a logical choice as Fitzgerald and Zelda spent some time traveling in Europe like Daisy and Tom.

5. There is nothing in flashiness (A) to suggest a contrast to "enormous power" as this sentence does. The same is true of vigor (D). While the denotation of "effeminate" has to do with feminine qualities (B and E), the import of the sentence is clearly to contrast the fussiness of the riding costume and the "enormous power" of Tom's body, thus establishing (C) as the best answer.

6. It is stated in the passage that "we were never intimate" so (A) is eliminated. Nick and Daisy are cousins, but that is indicated earlier in the book, not in this passage, thus eliminating (B). (C) is never addressed. One could assume that (E) Nick graduated from New Haven since he was in the senior club; however, (D) is the only answer that can be discerned from this passage.

7. (A) is too general to suggest itself as a correct answer. (B) might be tempting, but does not account for the entire mood established. (C) does occur in this paragraph, but also does not explain a shift in mood, and (D) is simply incorrect. (E) points out the change in sentence structure and the imagery that includes the visual, audile, and tactile.

8. While (A), (B), and (C) are all possibilities, in the context of this passage the green light clearly symbolizes Gatsby's yearning (D). This is clearly reinforced by the physical action of Gatsby's stretching out his arms toward the light and trembling.

9. Nick states that he thought "the thing for Daisy to do" was to rush out with her child (B). Tom's having a mistress (A) and reading a book (C) are "surprising" to Nick, not "confusing." And he explains his feeling confused *despite* being touched by their concern (D), not because of it. (E) is simply not supportable by the text. Thus (B) is the correct answer.

10. Nick does say he thought Daisy might come out with her child, but this is not enough to establish (B). There is also not enough about his present or future relationship with Daisy and Tom to support (C). (D) is actually contradicted by the passage—the rumors of his engagement have driven him away from home, and there is nothing in the passage to support (E). Therefore (A) is the only possible choice. The fact that he does not call out to Gatsby when he realizes the man is enjoying being alone suggests a sympathetic nature (A).

11. In this passage it says that Jordan "mentions" Gatsby but does not describe him. Thus (A) is eliminated. (C) and (D) are simply not supportable by the passage. The fact that he will use Miss Baker's mention of Gatsby as enough of an introduction to call to him belies (E). The "leisurely movements" with which the stranger moves and the "secure position of his feet upon the lawn" (B) suggest a confidence and sense of ownership that must be Gatsby

12. All of the coordinating conjunctions indicate that (B), polysyndeton, is the correct answer.

13. Although Nick is impressed with the huge orchestra (A), many lights (B), and array of famous people (D), he was most amazed that he had actually been invited (C). He mentions twice that he was invited and contrasted it with the fact others were not.

14. Given the nature of the party and Nick's description of the preparations, (A) is unlikely, (B) and (D) are tempting, but there is nothing to suggest that the partygoers are all young, and the only "thrill" described is the one girl's mounting the stage. (C) is likewise tempting as swimmers at the beach are mentioned as preparing for the party, but Nick also establishes that many of the guests simply find themselves at Gatsby's parties after driving to Long Island. (E), however, focuses on the raucous behavior of the partygoers and is, therefore, the correct answer.

15. All of the choices are definitions for prodigality, however, (B) is the correct answer since it highlights the nouveau riche's extravagance and wastefulness as a means of demonstrating their wealth.

16. This passage is set on Long Island (East Egg), not New York City (A). Pammy (B) may be a source of tension, but she is not a symbol for it. Vocabulary (C) is, of course, technically correct, but too vague. (E) is eliminated by the fact that Tom and Nick really are not "friends." The weather (D), however, is unbearably stagnant and stale, signifying the way Tom and Gatsby feel for one another.

17. (A) is tempting, but too implicit in the observation to be the primary motivation. (C) is likewise tempting, but Gatsby's wealth has already been established. (D) is eliminated by the fact that Daisy is not on the veranda for this scene. (B) therefore is the best choice. Gatsby is suggesting that both he and Tom live in the same social sphere, both live on the water. Tom casually acknowledges that, in these terms at least, they are equals.

18. Nick says Gatsby stares at the child with "surprise." Neither (D) boredom nor (E) dislike is indicated. Nick continues that Gatsby seemed not to have believed in Pammy's existence before. Thus, (B) excitement and (A) exhilaration must be eliminated in favor of (C) wonderment.

19. While Pammy's presence might complicate the fulfillment of Gatsby's dream (C), there is no reason to believe that she shatters it. Daisy's interaction with her daughter serves more to reinforce the reader's perception of her than challenge it (D). (E) is simply unsupportable by the text. (A) and (B) seem equally tempting until one examines Daisy's words, that Pammy is a "precious dream," and that Daisy wanted to "show her off" to her friends. When she asks Pammy whether the girl thinks "Mommy's friends" are "pretty," Daisy's objectification of those around her becomes more apparent. Thus (A) is the correct answer.

20. In this passage there is not any instance of (B), (E), (A), or (C). At the beginning of the passage, as Tom leaves the room, Daisy pulls Gatsby close for a kiss. She invites Jordan to kiss Nick, only to be called a "low, vulgar girl." Of course Jordan is being sarcastic, not judgmental, but the loosened morality of the "Roaring Twenties" is being illustrated.

21. Nick prefaces his comment by emphasizing the contempt he feels for the rumors spread about Gatsby at his parties, so his quoting the exact words of one of those rumors establishes (A) as the correct answer.

22. As the book was written before the 1929 crash, (A) cannot be the correct answer. (C) is only marginally suggested by Nick's realizing that, in his thirties, his list of single friends will dwindle. (D) is too big a figurative leap to be really tempting, and (E) is too broad a conclusion to leap to. Therefore, only (B) remains. Nick finally sees that, what only moments before, seemed promising and never-ending, is suddenly lonely, futile, and fraught with disappointment.

23. (A), (B), (C), and (D) all address only one aspect of the oxymoron. Only (E) attempts to explain both the positive and the negative.

24. Fitzgerald uses the image of a crowded and noisy city (A) and (E) merely as a means to indicate how Nick hears Tom. Immigration (B) is simply not an issue in the passage. (D) is tempting, but ultimately too vague. Nick continues in the paragraph again reflecting on what it means to be turning thirty. Thus (C) is the best answer.

25. Nick's altered perception at turning thirty serves as an emotional climax to the novel. There is no reason for the reader to suspect that the characters are driving on towards anyone's *literal* death, but as we are preparing for the *physical* climax of the plot, the sentence creates suspense. What is going to happen in the remaining chapters?

The Great Gatsby

Advanced Placement in English Literature and Composition Teaching Unit

Study Guide
Teacher's Copy

Chapter I

1. What purpose do the first four paragraphs serve?

   The first four paragraphs are used as a prologue to introduce the narrator, Nick Carraway.

2. What advice does Nick's father give him? Why does Fitzgerald have Nick share his father's advice with the reader?

   Nick's father tells him, "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." (p.1) Nick shares this advice because he wants the reader to know that he is not a man who jumps to conclusions, but has learned to give people the benefit of the doubt. Fitzgerald wants to establish Nick as a credible narrator and a sympathetic character.

3. What other method does Fitzgerald use to persuade the reader that Nick is credible?

   Fitzgerald places Nick both inside and outside of the dramatic action.

4. What does the statement "When I came back from the East last autumn..." tell you about the story to follow? (Pg. 2)

   The statement tells the reader that Nick has returned to his home in the West and is telling the story of Gatsby through the filter of time.

5. What importance is there in Nick's statement that "My family have been prominent, well-to-do people…for three generations"? (Pg. 3)

   This information makes Nick's participation with socialites, money, and privilege believable for the reader.

6. What is the setting of the story?

   The story is set in 1922, in West Egg and East Egg, approximately 20 miles east of New York City, near the Long Island Sound.

7. Interpret the meaning of the simile on page 4: "They [books on investments and securities] stood like new money from the mint."

   The new books on the shelf could be there simply for show, as much of what happens in East Egg and West Egg are. It is interesting to note that the books are about investments and securities. The fact that Nick has some of these books and intends to read them makes one believe that he is going to earn his money legally. The author draws a comparison between the books and mint condition. Coming from the mint can signify new money. Gatsby represents new money, thus highlighting the theme of social stratification.

8. How is West Egg different from East Egg?

   They are dissimilar in every way but size and shape. East Egg is more fashionable; the residents are from old money. West Egg is nouveau riche, the newly rich, considered gauche and uncultured by the East Eggers.

9. What is the relationship between Nick and Daisy and Tom Buchanan?

   Nick is Daisy's second cousin once removed. Tom went to college with Nick.

10. Interpret the oxymoron on page 6: "two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all."

    The phrase containing the oxymoron "Old friends" is a term used to indicate deep friendships, and, yet, Nick states he scarcely knows them. Perhaps this foreshadows the fact that even though he thinks he knows them, he will find out he knows little of them. It also suggests the superficiality of the upper class. Daisy is a relative of Nick's, and Tom is an old college friend. Nick has known them a long time (old friends), but he does not know them well. Their relationship has always been surface-level and superficial.

11. Cite the device and the imagery that Fitzgerald uses on page 6 to make the Buchanan palace seem alive.

    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 towards the house, giving the impression things are alive here.

12. Describe Tom Buchanan. What tone does the author use in his description?

Tom is a straw-haired, bossy, muscular man in his thirties with arrogant eyes. Fitzgerald uses words with negative connotations such as arrogant, proud, hard, shifting, and cruel in describing Tom, causing the reader to immediately dislike him.

13. Analyze Fitzgerald's method of creating mood inside the Buchanan's palace.

Fitzgerald creates a light, airy mood in the home by having the wind flowing through the room, lifting the curtains, ruffling the ladies dresses. He uses a simile comparing the couch to a balloon to add to the airy, light feeling. The girls feel paralyzed with happiness.

14. Who is the other person in the Buchanan home?

The other woman is a friend of Daisy's. Her name is Jordan Baker, a professional golfer.

15. Cite the anaphoras on page 9 and explain their use.

There are two examples of anaphora in the same paragraph. The first, "Her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouth." The second, " a promise that she had done gay, exciting things just a while since and that there were gay, exciting things hovering in the next hour." By forcing the reader to read these sentences rapidly, the anaphoras contribute to the light mood.

16. What is the author's purpose in the use of the hyperbole on page 9?

The hyperbole "The whole town is desolate," and Nick's comment that follows it are used to add humor and to emphasize the superficial boredom of the upper class.

17. What annoys Nick about Tom's response to Nick's employment?

Nick is annoyed that Tom is quick to remark he has never heard of the bond company Nick works for. It is Tom's way of diminishing Nick, keeping him in his place.

18. What allusion is on page 12? What social issue does the allusion highlight?

"Have you read The Rise of the Colored Empires *by this man Goddard?" is an allusion to Theodore Lothrop Stoddard's* The Rising Tide of Color Against White World Supremacy. *It suggests the prevalent racism in twentieth-century America,.*

19. Why does Miss Baker refer to California after the discussion of white supremacy?

    In the post-war era, immigration had risen to new heights. In California, the immigration of Mexicans—both legally and illegally—planted the seeds of issues the United States is still grappling with.

20. What unflattering feature of Jordan Baker's personality is revealed?

    She is an unashamed eavesdropper.

21. During the dinner conversation, Nick wanted to "look squarely at every one, and yet to avoid all eyes." (Pg. 15) This statement is an example of what type of rhetorical device? What does this convey to the reader?

    This is an example of antithesis: a contrasting relationship between two ideas. The author uses this in this conversation to convey to the reader a sense of complexity in a person, namely Tom.

22. When the telephone rings, why does Nick say that no one "was able utterly to put this fifth guest's shrill metallic urgency out of mind"? (Pg. 15)

    All four of the people at the table suspect that it is Tom's mistress calling back.

23. Why is Nick's instinct "to telephone immediately for the police"? (Pg. 16)

    Nick views the situation between Tom, Daisy, and Tom's woman as a nasty one that can lead to trouble. This can be a subtle foreshadowing.

24. What is the reader left to think about Daisy's emotional state and her relationship with Tom?

    While Daisy is something of a phony, she is genuinely disturbed by Tom's philandering.

25. What did Daisy mean when she said of Pammy, "I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool – that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." (Pg. 17)

    Daisy, although not a fool herself, is the product of an environment that does not value intelligent, thinking women. It is preferable, in the society of the 1920s, to simply be beautiful and simple.

26. When Nick starts the engine of his car, Daisy stops him by making the statement, "We heard you were engaged to a girl out West." What does Nick's answer reveal about his character? (Pg. 19)

Nick's answer reveals that he is not a man who will be rumored into doing anything. He is a man with a backbone, able to think for himself, able to make decisions, able to stand without crowd approval. The rumors, in fact, were the very thing that caused him to cut things off. This might also suggest that Nick is overly sensitive to the judgments of others.

27. 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?

He feels touched because Tom and Daisy seem genuinely interested in his life. He is confused about why Daisy does not act more maternal, more like a wife and mother. He is disgusted, but not surprised, by Tom's infidelity.

28. How does Fitzgerald change the mood of the story in the second paragraph on page 20?

Fitzgerald changes the mood of the story by changing the sentence structure. The sentences become very long and rhythmic with hints of alliteration and end rhyme, which have a soothing effect on the reader. For example, "The wind had blown off, leaving a loud, bright night, with wings beating in the trees and a persistent organ sound as the full bellows of the earth blew the frogs full of life." (Pg. 20)

29. The green light that Gatsby is staring at is mentioned several more times and assumes symbolic significance. Where do you think the green light might be? What can it mean?

It is probably in East Egg, across the bay from West Egg. The green light may be associated with the general meaning of a green light, go; go after the American dream, or it may be symbolic of Gatsby's dream.

Chapter II

1. In the first paragraph of chapter two, what device does Fitzgerald use to create a musical effect? Cite some examples.

   Fitzgerald uses alliteration to create a musical effect. Some examples are: railroad and runs, fantastic farm, grotesque gardens, cars crawl, obscure operations.

2. On a literal level, what is the valley of ashes? What might it represent on a symbolic level?

   It is a large dump for ashes. The piles of ash take on the appearance of houses, chimneys, and men. Since ashes are what remains of something that has been burned, it is safe to assume that symbolically the valley of ashes represents something used up, burnt out, ruined, corrupted, changed, or wasted. Since the ashes take the form of houses and men, the suggestion is that the ash heap represents wasted, burned-out lives. "Whose lives?" is the question Fitzgerald wants us to answer.

3. What overlooks the valley of ashes? What might they symbolize?

   The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg overlook the valley of ashes. They are huge, with retinas one yard high. It seems that these eyes see everything that comes and goes. Perhaps they are symbolic of God, the all-seeing One.

4. Contrast Daisy with Myrtle, Tom's mistress.

   Daisy is smart, beautiful, rich, and refined. She comes from old money and has all that she needs. Myrtle is not very smart, a bit heavy, poor, and rough. She lives in the valley of ashes and essentially owns nothing.

5. Analyze Nick's statement "I think he'd tanked up a good deal at luncheon, and his determination to have my company bordered on violence." (Pg. 24)

   This statement seems to foreshadow the fact that Tom, particularly after drinking, may exhibit violent tendencies. Perhaps, one of his women may experience the unpleasantness of abuse.

6. What method of character development does Fitzgerald employ to develop the character of Myrtle?

   Fitzgerald develops the character of Myrtle first by direct description. He describes her as thickish, blocking out the light from the office door. She has surplus flesh but is sensuous. She is not pretty but has vitality. Secondly, he develops the character through her actions. She stops at a news-stand to purchase a copy of "Town Tattle" and a moving- picture magazine. She sits on Tom's lap making phone calls and smoking. Thirdly, he develops Myrtle through her speech. She asks a salesperson, "I don't suppose you got that kind?" All of these descriptions indicate Myrtle's commonness. (Pg. 27)

7. What is the significance of the name George Wilson?

As with many of Fitzgerald' characters, the name George Wilson is carefully chosen to reflect certain traits and ideals. It was President Wilson who took the Americans into WWI. During the peace process, Wilson was outmaneuvered by England, France, and Italy. Unwilling to compromise his ideals, Wilson set out across the country working to "sell" his position to the Americans. He worked himself too hard and became ill, eventually suffering a stroke. His wife, Edith, ran his administration for the next year. Wilson eventually died a defeated idealist.

The character George Wilson is also a defeated idealist, living in the valley of ashes. He is unwilling to compromise his ideals about marriage, and has become very ill in the fight. George is the name of the United States' first president. Just as Fitzgerald intends to illustrate how the American Dream has deteriorated, George Wilson, in the valley of ashes, indicates a waste of potential greatness.

8. How has Fitzgerald used colors to support the developing theme of the American dream?

In the first chapter, Fitzgerald speaks of the wine-colored rugs and rosy porch, the white palaces and white windows, and, in chapter two, speaks of blue eyes and the blue Mediterranean. The theme of the American dream is developed by the colors of the flag: red, white, and blue.

9. Myrtle says of her sister, "She's said to be very beautiful by people who ought to know." (Pg. 28) What does this statement say about society?

Myrtle refers to "people who ought to know" as though there are some in the society who set the standards for others. It seems that that thought is acceptable to her.

10. On page 29, how does Fitzgerald emphasize the smallness of the apartment?

Fitzgerald uses an anaphora to emphasize the smallness of the apartment: "a small living-room, a small dining-room, a small bedroom…"

11. In what way is the party in the apartment different from the dinner at the Buchanan's in Chapter 1? In what way is it similar?

The dinner party at the Buchanans' is more elegant, more refined. The party in the apartment is a raucous, drunken affair. In both parties, however, an air of boredom from a sense of meaninglessness is pervasive. In both, there is a good deal of unhappiness and posturing.

12. The McKees appear only in chapter II. Why does Fitzgerald bring them into the story?

    Fitzgerald introduces the McKees mainly to highlight the social stratification of the period. They serve as counterpoints to the Gatsby crowd.

13. What does Fitzgerald convey through the use of an asyndeton on pages 30 and 31?

    An asyndeton gives the impression that the list is not complete. Ex: "Her laughter, her gestures, her assertions became more violently affected moment by moment…" These are but a few of the characteristics that caused her to seem so large and the room to shrink around her.

14. What rumor does Nick hear about Gatsby?

    Nick hears that Gatsby is a nephew or cousin to Kaiser Wilhelm, ruler of Germany from 1871-1918. He was, at the time, largely blamed for causing World War I.

15. Although Catherine comments that neither Tom nor Myrtle care about the one they married, how does the reader know that that isn't true?

    After a little too much whiskey, Myrtle mentions Daisy and then tauntingly shouts Daisy's name over and over. "Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand." (Pg. 37) Although he considers a little affair on the side to be allowable, it is evident his allegiance lies with Daisy. Remember earlier that Fitzgerald foreshadowed Tom's violent tendency.

16. What seems to be the feeling towards divorce in the 1920s?

    For Catholics, divorce is absolutely forbidden; however, for the rich socialites, it seems to be becoming more accessible and even desirable to living unhappily. At one point, Catherine suggests that if she were Myrtle and Tom, she would just get a divorce.

Chapter III

1. What is the setting for Chapter III?

   Chapter III takes place at Gatsby's mansion in West Egg.

2. In what ways is chapter II like chapter III?

   In each of the chapters, people arrive to drink and party. Both chapters introduce the reader to a group of people: Chapter II introduces the reader to Tom Buchanan's crowd, and Chapter III introduces the reader to Jay Gatsby's crowd. In both cases, the group ends up drunk and unhappy.

3. Why is it that Fitzgerald waits until chapter III to introduce Gatsby?

   By holding off on his introduction of Gatsby, Fitzgerald knits a closer relationship between the reader and Nick. Secondly, Fitzgerald creates an air of mystery for the reader, not unlike the mystery that Nick and the others associate with Gatsby. This technique of delayed character revelation is also used to emphasize the theatrical quality of Gatsby's approach to life that is an important part of his personality.

4. There are at least two examples of a polysyndenton in chapter three. Identify one of them, and explain what it contributes to the impact of the chapter.

   In the opening paragraph, on page 39, is one example, "…with mops and scrubbing-brushes and hammers and garden-shears," and in the second complete paragraph on page 40, the word "and" is used eighteen times. This device is used to convey multiplicity, to give an energetic enumeration, and to add build-up. In this particular case the polysyndenton gives the idea that, if it can be found, Gatsby owns it. If it can be purchased, Gatsby has it. At Gatsby's house, the party goes on and on and on.

5. What does Nick's twice insisting that he had "actually been invited" suggest?

   It seems that he surely did not expect to be invited, is quite surprised that he was invited, and is quite flattered. Nick being invited stands in stark contrast to the rest of the group. Even though he lives close enough to walk over at any time, his manners prevent it.

6. Nick comments that the people at the party conduct "themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with an amusement park." Analyze what is being conveyed by the comparison.

   First, the statement draws a comparison of the atmosphere at Gatsby's to an amusement park: many things going on in different places, many things to do, many drinks and food items, many people who don't know each other. Second, the statement highlights the fact that the people at the party lack manners, even to the point of showing up at a party uninvited; their nouveau riche lack of "breeding" is what stands out to Nick.

7. What metaphor does Fitzgerald use to convey the theme of hollowness in the upper class?

   Fitzgerald uses the books in Gatsby's library to convey the theme of hollowness. Owl Eyes is completely amazed that the books on the shelves are not simply hollow, cardboard look-a-likes, but are actual books. They are not there just for show; someone could actually read them. In this class of people, so many of them are simply hollow cardboard replicas of people with nothing real or useful on the inside.

8. Explain the meaning of the statement "…the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental, and profound." (Pg. 47)

   Nick makes this statement after drinking a bit too much champagne. When sober, the scene around him has no significance, but through the haze of alcohol, the same scene now seems steeped in meaning. Fitzgerald's deeper meaning, perhaps, is that minus the alcohol, the Jazz Age has little significance.

9. What do Gatsby and Nick have in common?

   They were both in the Third Division in France, during the war.

10. 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"? (Pg. 48)

    The Dictionary of American Slang defines roughneck as "an ill-mannered rough person: a rowdy, a tough guy, or hard guy." Since we have seen nothing ill mannered or rowdy about Gatsby, we can assume that Fitzgerald means to suggest that, despite Gatsby's elegant dress and appearance, there is something hard-looking about him. That he is "picking his words with care" suggests he is speaking in a manner that is not entirely natural to him, a manner with which he is not comfortable, or one which his family has not taught to him.

11. Although there are many rumors regarding Gatsby, there is a clue given to the reader about what the nature of Gatsby's work may be. What is the clue? What might it indicate is his work?

    The clue comes in the statement " …a butler hurried toward him with the information that Chicago was calling him on the wire." (Pg. 48) Chicago was the seat of organized crime and bootlegging in the 1920s. The reader begins to see past the rumors and discern that perhaps Gatsby came by his money, at least partially, as a bootlegger.

12. In what way is Gatsby's behavior at his party quite unlike the behavior of most of his guests?

    He does not drink, and his behavior becomes more correct as the evening progresses. Rather than dancing, singing, and partying, he seems to stay aloof from most everyone.

13. Explain the symbolism of the simile, on page 51"…at intervals she appeared suddenly at his side like an angry diamond, and hissed: 'You promised!' into his ear."

    As a diamond has many facets, so does this simile. The diamond, a symbol of forever love, a promise of undying love, is being challenged by a flirtatious, young actress and the husband of the woman speaking. His wife was once the diamond of his life and, as her position is challenged, the sharpness of the diamond, the cutting aspects of the diamond, are exposed. The diamond sharply reminds him, "You promised!"

14. What is the significance of the phone calls that Gatsby receives? How does it add to the development of his character? What does the lack of calls to Buchanan demonstrate?

    Gatsby receives phone calls at different points throughout the book seeming to be business calls of some kind. It is evident that he is working and building his financial base. These calls add mystery to his background as they are from Philadelphia, and later in the book Chicago, both cities boasting seats of organized crime. Buchanan doesn't receive business phone calls, and in fact, never seems to have work to do. His money is old and secure.

15. What does the author do to convey the idea that the gentleman driving the car is drunk?

    He changes the speech pattern, uses many misspelled words, and has him speak illogically.

16. The first three chapters span what time period?

    The first three chapters cover in depth three nights that are several weeks apart.

17. In the final paragraph on page 55, how does the viewpoint change? How is this accomplished? What is the purpose?

    Nick steps out of the action of the story and fills the reader in on other happenings. The reader sees that Nick has been diligently at work leading quite a normal life and that the three parties spoken of were not the norm for him. Nick adds to his credibility.

18. What purpose does the character of Jordan Baker fulfill?

    Jordan, a professional golfer, is one of a rising group of athletic stars. In the 1920s, attitudes began changing, and athletes, including women, were elevated to a higher social status.

19. What is the second ugly character flaw revealed about Jordan? How does this affect the reader?

She is a chronic liar. She lies in her private life as well as in her public life as an athlete. The reader has been warned and should not take anything she says to heart.

20. 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?

Fitzgerald is showing that, when the materialistic trapping of wealth are not considered, the rich behave no differently than the lower classes.

21. What is revealed about Nick's character?

Nick is desperately honest. He can't even date two women at the same time without feeling guilty. The relationship Nick has with the reader is strengthened by his honesty. The reader now believes Nick to be a credible narrator.

22. How does the motif of geography in the novel help shape its themes and characters?

The four motifs of geography correspond with a particular theme or type of character encountered. West Egg is represents "new money," like Gatsby, and symbolizes the emergence of the newly established aristocracy of the 1920s.

East Egg symbolizes the old upper class that continues to dominate American social life.

The valley of ashes is desolate and desperate, like George Wilson, symbolizing the decay of American society hidden behind the facade of a glittering upper class.

New York City is an example of the chaos that Nick perceives in the East. Setting reinforces the themes and characters throughout the entire book.

Chapter IV

1. What is the significance of the date on the timetable?

   The date, July 5, 1922, is the day after Independence Day. It seems to indicate that the people are enjoying a freedom they didn't fight for.

2. How does Fitzgerald's use of names further the motif of geography?

   The East Egg's list of names includes names such as Mr. Bunsen from Yale, Doctor Webster Civet, the Blackbucks who always gathered together and flipped up their noses at whoever came near, Stonewall Jackson Abrams of Georgia, and Mrs. Ulysses Swett; reputable, American-sounding names from reputable, stuffy places.

   The West Egg's list of names includes the Mulreadys, Don S. Schwartze and Arthur McCarty, people connected with the movies in one way or another, Da Fontano and De Jongs who came to gamble, Gus Waize and Horace O'Donavan, theatrical people; ethnic-sounding names from less-reputable businesses or places. Fitzgerald meticulously names each character to further the motif of geography.

3. What symbol does Fitzgerald use as the outward manifestation of Gatsby's wealth? What theme does this reinforce?

   Gatsby's car is the symbol of his wealth. It reinforces the theme of the American Dream, as the car is certainly representative of that dream.

4. Describe Gatsby's car.

   Gatsby's car is a rich cream [yellowish] color trimmed with bright nickel on the outside with a green leather interior. It is monstrous in length and has "…hat-boxes, and supper-boxes, and tool boxes." (p 64)

5. What causes Nick to think that Gatsby cannot be telling the truth? What changes his mind?

   Nick is convinced, both by Gatsby's body language and by the change in his speech pattern, that Gatsby is lying. The final indication is when Gatsby says he is from the Middle West, San Francisco to be exact! However, Gatsby then pulls out a medal from Montenegro and a picture of himself at Oxford. The medal and picture seem authentic, so again, Nick and the reader are left wondering what the truth about Gatsby is.

6. Gatsby fills Nick in on the details of his life for what reason?

   It is very important to Gatsby that Nick does not think he was just some nobody.

7. In the middle of page 69, how does Fitzgerald further the mood and reinforce the theme of the Roaring Twenties?

   Fitzgerald furthers the mood by opening the scene in the restaurant with the statement "Roaring noon." It may be considered a type of personification that adds to the personality of the era. Because the term "roaring" is tied to the era of the 1920s, it also reinforces the theme.

8. Where do Gatsby and Nick go for lunch? Whom do they meet?

   At "roaring noon," Gatsby and Nick enter a well-fanned Forty-second Street cellar for lunch. There they meet Mr. Wolfsheim, an associate of Gatsby's.

9. Analyze the techniques used to develop the character of Wolfsheim.

   Fitzgerald first describes Wolfsheim using caricature. He exaggerates the size of his head and nose, and points out the "two fine growths of hair which luxuriated in either nostril." (Pg. 69) Fitzgerald then alludes to the incident with Rosy Rosenthal, a small time gambler, involved with the underworld. The characterization of this shady fellow further develops by drawing attention to the fact that he eats with "ferocious delicacy" and that his cuff buttons are human molars. (Pg. 71) After Wolfshiem departs from the restaurant, Gatsby informs Nick that he is the "man who fixed the World's Series back in 1919." (p 73) Fitzgerald appropriately names him Wolfsheim, meaning wolf's home. There is no doubt left in the reader's mind. This Wolfsheim is a shady character, and if Gatsby keeps company with him, something about Gatsby must be amiss.

10. What do the characters of Buchanan and Wolfsheim represent?

    Buchanan represents the established, legal institutions, and Wolfsheim represents the underworld.

11. What government act extended the activities of the underworld?

    The eighteenth amendment to the constitution, better known as Prohibition, extended the activities of the underworld. When the illegal liquor business became lucrative, organized crime stepped in to fill the people's need for alcoholic refreshment.

12. Explain Gatsby's statement: "Miss Baker's a great sportswoman, you know, and she'd never do anything that wasn't all right." (Pg. 71)

    This statement reflects the changes taking place in the 1920s. Being great has nothing to do with being honest, and, since she is a sportswoman, it seems she can do nothing wrong. Nick, since he already knows Jordan is a chronic liar, is not fooled.

13. What matter does Jordan speak to Nick about? How does she know this information?

Jordan tells Nick the story about Daisy and Gatsby's young love. She asks Nick if he would invite Daisy to his house for tea, without Tom, and then let Gatsby come over. Jordan was a bridesmaid in Tom and Daisy's wedding.

14. Jordan informs the reader that Daisy was 18 when she and Gatsby consummated their love. What significance does her age have?

Daisy is 18 when Gatsby's dream begins. It parallels the fact that Fitzgerald fell in love with Zelda when she was 18. 1918 is about the end of WWI and the beginning of the Roaring Twenties, a time when many dreams began.

15. Why is Daisy so upset on her wedding day?

She receives a letter, which the reader assumes is from Gatsby, that gives her second thoughts.

16. Interpret the metaphor "He [Gatsby] came alive to me [Nick], delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor." (Pg. 78)

Nick had been in the dark and confused about Gatsby, but all of a sudden, it all made sense, no longer hidden, but delivered and exposed. What had seemed purposeless now had meaning. The bright lights, big parties, and carnival atmosphere were to draw attention to his home in hopes that Daisy might attend. The purposeless nights of staring off into the sound at a green light now made sense; Daisy was across the sound. Now Nick understands more of Gatsby's actions.

17. Why is it important to Gatsby that Daisy see his house?

Gatsby already lost Daisy to established money and knows that unless she sees that he is now established money, he won't have a chance with her.

18. What symbolism is there in the name Daisy Fay?

Daisy, a beautiful flower, is just waiting to blossom, waiting to open up, waiting to be picked. The name Fay, meaning Fairy, adds to the other-worldly feeling of this romantic dream girl of Gatsby's.

19. What overall purpose do the three events in chapter 4 accomplish?

The events give a better understanding of Gatsby's past and, therefore, his present.

20. What part of Fretag's pyramid does the description of the parties fill?

The description of the parties is rising action.

Chapter V

1. When Nick comes home to West Egg that night, what does he find unusual? How does this description contribute to the mood?

   As he is driving up to his house, he thinks it may be on fire, but turning the corner, he sees that it is Gatsby's house, lit from tower to cellar, looking like the World's Fair. This description furthers the mood that Gatsby's place is much like a carnival. By continuing the development of the carnival like feeling, Fitzgerald conveys to the reader a sense that, like a carnival, Gatsby or Gatsby's money may not be stable, may not be real, may be here today and gone tomorrow.

2. Why does Gatsby suggest that he and Nick "go to Coney Island," or "take a plunge in the swimming-pool"? (Pg. 81, 82)

   Gatsby is wondering whether Jordan has spoken to Nick, but, instead of asking, he just beats around the bush until Nick offers the information.

3. How does Gatsby show that he is grateful to Nick for his agreeing to call Daisy?

   Gatsby tactlessly offers him a job, a confidential sort of thing.

4. Throughout Chapter V, how does Fitzgerald use weather to reinforce the mood? On the morning of the meeting, the climax of this part of the story, it is pouring.

   The rain outside mirrors the storms within, as Gatsby and Daisy meet again. When Nick leaves Gatsby and Daisy alone to talk, he stands outside under a tree and the rain sounds like their voices. As the rain stops, signifying the end of their conversation, the sun begins to shine. Nick perceives that silence has fallen within his house as the sun begins to shine, and he enters the house to find Gatsby absolutely glowing, radiant.

5. Cite the hyperbole, on page 84, and explain the effects created.

   "The flowers were unnecessary, for at two o'clock a greenhouse arrived from Gatsby's…" The exaggeration of the number of flowers sent over by Gatsby emphasizes both his extravagance and the desperateness of his quest—the lengths to which he feels he must go in order to win his lost love.

6. How does Daisy's agreeing to come to Nick's house without Tom contribute to the theme of changing moral values?

   Daisy essentially comes expecting to enter into an affair that a generation earlier would have been unthinkable.

7. Explain how the ambiguous metaphor on page 85, about Daisy's voice, is appropriate.

   "The exhilarating ripple of her voice was a wild tonic in the rain." is a metaphor that compares the sound of Daisy's voice to tonic. It is appropriate to compare Daisy's voice to a wild tonic since it is her voice that is intoxicating to men. A "tonic" can also be a medicinal cure, and the sound of Daisy's voice is a cure for Gatsby's longing.

8. How does Fitzgerald show the changes in Gatsby?

   The self-assured, easy-going Gatsby is visibly ill at ease. He is as pale as death with his hands shoved into his pockets.

9. What literary purpose does the broken clock serve?

   The clock is like Jay Gatsby, who, when he realized he was poor and would never get Daisy, stopped ticking. He is trapped in his dreams just as the clock is trapped in a moment. Fitzgerald may also be implying that Gatsby stopped growing emotionally, and is essentially frozen in time.

10. What makes Gatsby sound like Tom?

    When Daisy arrives at Gatsby's house, Gatsby says, "My house looks well, doesn't it?" He makes the same type of comment that Tom made when Nick first arrived at his house.

11. What arouses Nick's suspicions about Gatsby's past? What suspicion does this apparent lie reinforce?

    Gatsby tells Daisy that it took him just three years to earn the money to buy the house. Earlier, he told Nick that he had inherited the money. The contradiction again raises the suspicion that Gatsby has come by his money illegally.

12. What changes take place in Gatsby during Daisy's visit?

    First, he is embarrassed at seeing Daisy again. Then, he is filled with unreasoning joy. Next, he is consumed with wonder.

13. Analyze the passage "He had been full of the idea so long, dreamed it right through to the end, waited with his teeth set, so to speak, at an inconceivable pitch of intensity. Now, in the reaction, he was running down like an overwound clock." (Pg. 92)

This is the second time that Fitzgerald uses a clock to compare Gatsby and his dream. The first time, it was a broken clock, frozen in time. This time, it is a clock that has been wound tootightly. It seems the spring will break and uncoil. This may be used as a symbol to alert the reader that this is the climax of the story, and it is all down hill from here.

This passage reflects not only Gatsby's life and dream, but also reflects America in the 1920s. As WWI ended, the Roaring Twenties began. The American dream changes as the stock market grew. By 1929, the stock market had reached an unprecedented level, like an overwound clock, until the spring broke and the stock market crashed. It is an uncanny predication of what is to come, as Fitzgerald could not have known it when publishing this book in 1925, but he surely could have known that the growth could not continue at this rate for long.

14. Why does Daisy cry about the shirts?

She says because they are beautiful, but, in reality, she is mourning the fact that she could have had both money and love. Perhaps at this moment she realizes the emptiness of her life with Tom and is overwhelmed at the thoughts of a dream she can now not attain.

15. As the three of them look across the bay toward Daisy'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. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one." (Pg. 93) What does Fitzgerald mean by:

    A. "Compared to the great distance" between Gatsby and Daisy?

    Gatsby had moved across the bay from Daisy and spent a great deal of energy dreaming about her, but realistically, his chances of being reunited with her must have seemed remote. The green light had been as close to her, previously, as Gatsby is now.

    B. "Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one."

    Now that his dream has been realized, the green light becomes just a light and is no longer a symbol for Gatsby. For however brief a time, the girl is with him again, so he no longer needs to sustain himself with symbols.

16. Explain the statement on page 95, "Daisy tumbled short of his dreams."

Much of The Great Gatsby, *including symbols and themes, has to do with, and is associated with, dreams. This statement is filled with symbolic meaning as well as literal meaning. Oftentimes one dreams and builds such an illusion, that when the dream comes to fruition, it is often less than one had hoped for. This is true for Gatsby. The romantic vision of Daisy that Gatsby has created, much as he created himself, dissipates as the reality sets in that Daisy is only human. This statement also reflects the sentiments of the American people as the elusive American dream, once attained, also tumbled far short.*

17. Cite and explain the metaphor on page 96.

"…that voice was a deathless song." Again, Daisy's voice is the quality that is otherworldly. As Fitzgerald began the novel, establishing the feeling that Daisy is a fairy-like creature, he continues the novel. In her voice is life for Gatsby.

18. Who is the protagonist: Gatsby or Nick?

Most students will say that Gatsby is the protagonist, since the major conflict develops around Gatsby's dream, and the climax comes when Gatsby meets his dream face to face. In fact, with Gatsby's death, the story essentially ends. Nick returns to his old life and life goes on as it always has before. Nick generally assumes a secondary role preferring to describe and comment on events rather than be the central figure of the action. If Gatsby is the protagonist, then surely Tom is his foil.

Some students will say that Nick is the protagonist and this is his story, his retelling of his time in the east. If they support this idea then Gatsby is just a foil, highlighting Nick's essential goodness and naiveté.

Chapter VI

1. What is the purpose of chapter VI?

   Chapter VI provides the reader with more details regarding Gatsby's past and points out the distinction between old money and new money. Regardless of how wealthy one is, what matters is the source of the money, and how long one's family has had it.

2. In what sense does this chapter epitomize the American dream?

   The reader sees that Gatsby has risen from rags to riches through his ingenuity and resourcefulness.

3. What purpose does the biblical allusion on page 98: "He was a son of God…and he must be about His Father's business" serve?

   The biblical allusion serves, first of all, to establish that Gatsby—at least in his own self-perception—is a deity. Secondly, he has pursued wealth and its trappings with almost religious zeal.

4. Who is Jay Gatsby?

   Jay Gatsby is actually James Gatz from North Dakota. At sixteen, he left home and became his own man. He was a womanizer. He went to a small Lutheran college in Minnesota for a couple of weeks and then headed back to Lake Superior. At the age of seventeen, he met Dan Cody and joined him on his yacht as a personal assistant.

5. What is the meaning of the statement "…they [reveries] were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy's wing"? (Pg. 99)

   Remember that earlier Fitzgerald compared Gatsby to Christ—the rock of the world. The rock of the world [Gatsby] has all of his hopes and dreams founded on a fairy's wing, Daisy Fay. Fitzgerald's imagery throughout the book has enhanced the fairy-like-ness of Daisy. This statement makes the reader wonder if Gatsby operates in reality or in a dream.

6. Analyze the meaning of the name Dan Cody.

   Dan is short for Daniel, a probable allusion to Daniel Boone. Daniel Boone was one of the first frontiersmen who headed for the West. Wild Bill Cody is one of the last of the frontiersman. Gatsby is fashioned by Dan Cody to be a type of frontiersman—one who lives and dies in the pursuit of the frontier of the American dream.

7. How long was Gatsby employed by Cody?

   Gatsby worked for Cody for five years.

8. Why does Gatsby not drink?

   Gatsby saw how alcohol affected Cody and was disgusted by its effects. He made a decision that he would not drink.

9. Describe Tom's first visit to Gatsby's home.

   Tom, Mr. Sloane, and a woman arrive on horseback. Gatsby offers them refreshments. He reminds Tom that they have already met, but Tom does not seem to remember much about Gatsby. The woman invites Gatsby to come to dinner with them, and, even though Mr. Sloane makes it obvious Gatsby isn't welcome, Gatsby accepts. When Gatsby goes to get his coat, Tom, Mr. Sloane, and the woman depart before he can return.

10. Knowing Tom, how can one account for his comment about being "old-fashioned" and "women run[ning] around too much these days to suit [him]"? (Pg. 103)

    Although he is quite sincere, he obviously believes in a double standard of behavior. That he says this and does not see the irony may be attributed to a combination of limited intelligence and arrogance.

11. What does the word choice "menagerie" help Fitzgerald convey?

    The denotation of menagerie is
    1. wild animal exhibit
    2. diverse or exotic group of unusual people or things.

    Fitzgerald's word choice furthers the amusement park imagery associated with Gatsby's home.

12. Explain Gatsby's expectations of Daisy. Are they realistic?

    Gatsby expects Daisy to fall madly in love with him and confess to Tom that she never loved him. He expects they can go back in time five years and erase all that has happened. Although Gatsby thinks these expectations are realistic, Nick tries to point out to him that they are not. Daisy is a married woman who enjoys the kind of life that Tom has provided her with and can continue to provide her with.

13. At the bottom of page 110, Nick narrates the event of Daisy's and Gatsby's first kiss. He says that Gatsby knews that, after kissing Daisy, "…his mind would never romp again like the mind of God." What does this mean?

    Earlier in this same chapter, Nick compares the transformation from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby and says that Gatsby was a "Son of God," a self-proclaimed deity. He is, in a sense, the creator and controller of his Self. Once he kisses Daisy, however, he will pass that control over to her.

Chapter VII

1. What allusion does Trimalchio represent?

   Trimalchio was a wealthy man who lavishly feasts guests at a banquet in Petronius' Satyricon, *a satire on Roman life in the first century A.D.*

2. Identify and explain the personification on page 113.

   "Automobiles...turned expectantly into his drive…. and then drove sulkily away." Automobiles, one of the symbols of the American dream, are brought to life as they exhibit human emotions. This is also a metonymy as the automobiles represent the people they transport.

3. What foreshadows trouble at the Gatsby mansion?

   The shady description of the new servants is the first sign of trouble. That they are abrupt and ill mannered is the second sign.

4. Why did Gatsby replace his servants?

   He does not want anyone gossiping about Daisy's afternoon visits.

5. What is the meaning of Gatsby's statement to Tom, "I'm right across from you"? (Pg. 118)

   Gatsby is conveying the idea that he and Tom are equals.

6. What does Daisy mean when she says "…everything's so confused"? (Pg. 119)

   She means that she *is confused. Her emotions are especially confused, and she is unable to sort out her feelings for the two men.*

7. What alerts Tom that his wife has other interests? What is Tom's response?

   On page 119, Tom sees Daisy and Gatsby exchange a glance, and, in the glance, Tom sees Daisy tell Gatsby that she loves him. It is like a veil being removed from Tom's eyes. Tom becomes immediately agitated, his eyes flashing, his hand trembling; he insists that the group go to town.

8. Interpret the metaphor "Her voice is full of money." (Pg. 120)

   Daisy's voice has been highlighted throughout the story, but it is Gatsby who is able to identify the sound. It is full of money. She is a prize to be had.

9. Identify the oxymorons that describe the expressions that pass by Gatsby's face. Explain their importance.

   The oxymorons are "definitely unfamiliar" and "vaguely recognizable." Both of these oxymorons give the impression that there was understanding by Gatsby to some degree of the remark just made by Tom, and, yet, enough of his reaction was covered to make it seem that perhaps he didn't understand the remark.

10. On page 121, Tom insists on driving Gatsby's car. Why? How does Daisy respond? How does Gatsby respond?

    Tom wants to take what Gatsby loves, just as Gatsby has taken what Tom loves. Daisy slips away from Tom and says she will ride in the coupe with Gatsby. Gatsby is not thrilled about give up his car, but, if Daisy is with him, he will.

11. Does Tom like Gatsby's car?

    Even though he calls Gatsby's cream car a yellow circus wagon, he claims ownership of the yellow car while pumping gas. He at least likes what it stands for.

12. What causes Mr. Wilson's sickness?

    He has just figured out that his wife is having an affair, although he does not know with whom. Mr. Wilson decides that he will move away from the valley of ashes and take Myrtle with him. Although society may be willing to compromise, Wilson is not.

13. Why do you suppose that Tom decides to let Wilson finally have the car he has been promising him?

    A generous interpretation may be that Tom sees Wilson for the first time as a betrayed husband, possibly like himself, and feels some pity for him. On the other hand, Tom may see it as a way to avoid having Wilson become suspicious of him.

14. How does the news about the Wilson's leaving affect Tom?

    Tom, still digesting the idea that his wife has a lover and now learning that his mistress will be leaving, feels deprived of "property" that is "rightfully" his.

15. Who sees Tom driving the yellow car besides Mr. Wilson? What is their response?

Myrtle, staring down from the upstairs window, sees Tom driving the yellow car. Her jealous eyes are not, however, fixed on Tom; they are fixed on Jordan whom Myrtle takes to be Tom's wife.

16. What do Tom and Wilson have in common? How does each respond?

Both have just discovered that their wives are unfaithful. Wilson is sick over the thought, and Tom is completely angry.

17. What is Gatsby's explanation of his being at Oxford? Why is it important to Tom to expose the Oxford-man lie?

Gatsby says that after the Armistice some officers were given the opportunity to attend a university in England or France. He was at Oxford for five months. Tom wants to expose the fact that Gatsby did not have an education equal to his own.

18. Reread the first paragraph on page 130. What theme is supported by Tom's argument?

The theme of the hollowness of the upper class is supported by the hollowness of Tom's argument. What Tom is accusing Gatsby of being is exactly what he is. Tom, the libertine, who has had many women in his life and who is having an affair, is shouting about the absence of morality and fidelity in the world. It is an empty, hollow argument.

19. When Gatsby confronts Tom with the comments "Your wife doesn't love you. She's never loved you. She loves me." (Pg. 130) What is Gatsby's meaning?

These comments express Gatsby's true quest. Gatsby believes that just as he has never loved someone else, neither has Daisy.

20. What is Tom's response to his wife's infidelity?

Tom, knowing his own impropriety, is quite willing to forgive Daisy; all she needs to do is to say she never loved Gatsby, just the opposite of what Gatsby has asked her to say.

21. Describe the emotions that Daisy goes through as Tom and Gatsby argue.

Daisy is torn between the two men. She loves them both, now, but each wants her to make a confession that she can't make. Tom, who is the one that Daisy associates with security, persuades her to reluctantly say that she never loved Gatsby. After that, she blurts out that she has loved them both.

22. How has Gatsby gotten some of his money? What does Tom say that startles Gatsby?

Gatsby has gotten some of his money from his drugstores. Tom says that Gatsby's drugstores sell illegal alcohol, which was not uncommon during Prohibition. Tom also says that Gatsby has "something" big going on, but Tom's friend, who gave him the incriminating evidence, is terrified to say what Gatsby is involved in.

23. What is the outcome of the argument in the hotel room?

Tom, seeing that Daisy's courage is gone, sends her and Gatsby back home in Gatsby's car. Shortly after, Tom follows in his coupe with Jordan and Nick.

24. Analyze the significance of Nick's statement "… 'I just remembered that today's my birthday.' I was thirty." (Pg. 135)

This statement is significant because this is the day that Gatsby's dream dies. The dream that Gatsby has lived for is no more. Also, 1929 is the year that the American dream dies; the next year, America is in her thirties and in the throes of the Great Depression. It seems as though Fitzgerald signals the end of dreams as Nick turns 30.

25. How does Fitzgerald foreshadow what is about to happen?

Fitzgerald foreshadows upcoming trouble by choosing words associated with death. Nick says Gatsby's dream is "dead"; Gatsby looks as though he has "killed a man"; Daisy's courage is "gone"; the couple leaves like "ghosts"; there is a "menacing" ahead; Nick's new age of thirty "died away"; and he and Jordan "drove on toward death." This remarkable collection of references to dying, foreshadow the upcoming tragedies. (Pg. 134 - 136)

26. Analyze the statement "So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight." (Pg. 136)

This statement serves three purposes. It highlights the fact that Gatsby's dream is dead, foreshadows an upcoming death as twilight closes in, and works as a transition statement signaling that the climax is over.

27. How does Myrtle die?

She runs from her husband's garage, angrily waving her hands and shouting. She is hit by an unidentified passing car and dies instantly.

28. Why is Myrtle running out of the garage towards the car?

    Myrtle sees a yellow car and thinks that it is Tom and his wife. She runs out to talk to him to tell him that her husband is keeping her locked in her room and is moving her away.

29. How do Tom, Jordan, and Nick find out about the accident?

    They are passing the garage and see a crowd gathered around a wreck. They stop to see what happened.

30. What is Wilson's response to Myrtle's death? Tom's response? Gatsby's response?

    Wilson is absolutely devastated. He cannot do anything but sob and cry out, "My God!" Tom is brought to tears. It angers him that someone would hit her and not even stop. Gatsby is only concerned how Daisy feels. He shows no concern for the fact that someone is dead.

31. What does Fitzgerald convey to the reader by choosing the word "conspiring" in the description of Tom and Daisy in their kitchen?

    Conspiring insinuates that there is a secret, something to hide. The reader knows that Daisy was driving. One may suppose that she is telling Tom the whole story, or that she is devising a cover story.

32. Why does Gatsby loiter outside of the Buchanans' house? How does Fitzgerald let the reader know there is nothing for Gatsby to wait for?

    Gatsby says he is afraid that Tom may hurt Daisy. However, if Gatsby leaves, if he walks away without her, everything he has dreamed of will be gone forever. He may be waiting, hanging on to the last sliver of his dream. Fitzgerald ends the chapter, he is "watching over nothing." (Pg. 145)

Chapter VIII

1. How is the tone set for Chapter 8?

   The tone is set in the opening paragraph by foreshadowing upcoming trouble. Nick says that he cannot sleep and feels he should warn Gatsby about something.

2. Interpret the simile "'Jay Gatsby' had broken up like glass against Tom's hard malice…" (Pg. 148)

   The simile compares Gatsby with a broken pile of glass. Tom has broken the image that Gatsby created. All that Gatsby says he is, and all that he hopes to accomplish, is gone forever. His dreams are shattered; his image is shattered. There is nothing left but a broken, empty life.

3. On page 151, how does Fitzgerald capture the 1920s?

   In the second paragraph, Fitzgerald talks about "the rhythm of the year, summing up the sadness and suggestiveness of life in new tunes." This rhythm would last throughout the next ten years and be known as the Jazz Age. Other expressions that add to the Jazz Age feeling are "the saxophones wailed," and "blown by the sad horns."

4. Summarize the beginning of Daisy and Gatsby's relationship, five years ago.

   Gatsby was in Daisy's life by sheer accident and knew, because he was penniless and without a past, she could never be his. But one autumn night he took her. After that, Gatsby felt married to her. They spent some time together, and Daisy fell in love with a man who didn't exist. Then Gatsby went into the service. When Gatsby didn't return quickly enough, Daisy moved on. Gatsby lived in the dream of this marriage for the next five years creating a story of his past and searching for a way to become rich.

5. Why does Daisy give up on Gatsby? How does Gatsby learn of the relationship between Daisy and Tom?

   Daisy cannot understand why Gatsby cannot come home. She has many suitors lined up and finally, in the springtime, gives in to Tom Buchanan. Gatsby receives a letter from Daisy while he is at Oxford informing him that she is moving on.

6. In what ways can the letter from Daisy be considered Gatsby's salvation?

   The person with whom Daisy was in love did not exist. If Gatsby had returned, the fact that he had no money and no past would surely come out. This letter got him off the hook for the present.

7. After all that has taken place, how does Nick say he feels about Gatsby? What does he mean? Is he sincere?

   Nick says, "You're [Gatsby] worth the whole damn bunch put together." (Pg. 154) Although at first glance this sounds like a compliment, in actuality Nick is saying that even though he knows Gatsby isn't the greatest, in comparison to the crowd, Gatsby looks angelic. Following this statement to Gatsby, Nick informs the reader that he is glad he said that to Gatsby although "I disapproved of him from beginning to end." (Pg. 154)

8. In general, what is Nick's attitude toward Gatsby?

   Nick's attitude toward Gatsby is often times ambivalent and even contradictory. On the one hand, Nick romanticizes and admires Gatsby, describing the events of the novel in nostalgic, elegiac tones, and, on the other hand, he seems to disapprove of Gatsby's excesses and breaches of manners and ethics.

9. What does Jordan do the morning following the accident?

   She leaves Daisy's house and gives Nick a call. After a rather curt conversation, one of them just hangs up.

10. What clues give Wilson the idea there is another man?

    His wife came home from the city some months earlier with her face bruised and her nose swollen. Secondly, Wilson discovered an expensive dog leash in her drawer.

11. What conclusion does Wilson come to regarding his wife's death?

    He concludes she was hit by the driver of the yellow car. She ran to speak to him, but he did not stop.

12. Whom does Wilson associate with the yellow car?

    Since Tom, claiming ownership of the yellow car, stopped by the garage earlier, it seems that Wilson will assume the driver is Tom. Wilson also notes that she ran to speak to him; in other words, she must have known him. Wilson knows that Tom and she are acquainted.

13. What motif reappears in Chapter 8? What meaning is attributed to it?

    The motif is the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg overlooking Wilson's garage. Wilson says that those eyes are the eyes of God, and they have seen everything.

14. Where does Wilson spend the day following Myrtle's death?

    Wilson spends the day wandering around from Port Roosevelt to Gad's Hill. By half past two, he is in West Egg, looking for Gatsby.

15. Where do you think Wilson gets the information to track the car to Gatsby? Use evidence from the text.

Since Wilson saw Tom in the yellow car, he probably starts by looking for Tom. One of the places Wilson goes is Port Roosevelt. Because Port Roosevelt is an established, old name, one can assume it is probably located in East Egg. Tom probably gives Wilson Gatsby's name.

16. Analyze the technique that Fitzgerald uses in the third paragraph, on page 161, to indicate that Gatsby is no longer living in a dream and to foreshadow who his killer may be.

The paragraph starts with the idea that an expected phone call never comes. Gatsby realizes that the phone call [from Daisy] he has waited for is not coming either. He has for so long followed a single dream, that it is almost as if he were living under a cloud. Now that cloud is gone. He looks up and sees how frightening the leaves are, how grotesque a rose is, and how raw the sunlight is. Gatsby, for the first time in five years, sees the real world. One of the things he sees, as he floats about on his raft, is an ashen figure gliding toward him—ashen because he comes from the valley of ashes: Wilson.

17. How is Gatsby's body discovered?

Nick arrives at Gatsby's house late in the day and rushes anxiously up the steps. The four people in the house—the butler, the chauffer, a gardener, and Nick— run to the pool. There lies Gatsby, on the mattress, dead.

18. Why does no one find Gatsby earlier?

The reader cannot discern why Gatsby is not found earlier. But, because Nick says that he believes they [the butler, chauffer, and gardener] knew earlier, the reader believes they knew earlier also. The chauffeur confesses to hearing shots fired and simply says he "hadn't thought anything much about them," a good indication that perhaps he is covering something up. (Pg. 161)

19. What do you suspect happened to Wilson?

One answer may be that Wilson turns the gun on himself after seeing what he has done. Another possibility is that the gardener, or one of the others, kills Wilson after hearing the shots and running out to help. Since Gatsby's workers are all associated with Wolfsheim, and none of them confess to finding Gatsby before Nick arrives, it seems that one of them may have something to hide. And yet another possibility is that Wilson, like President Wilson, has a stroke.

20. Cite examples of the motif that nature reflects life.

Five years earlier, it was in the fall that Gatsby first took Daisy. Daisy has a long, difficult winter, and then, Tom pursued Daisy in the spring. On page 153, the reader is informed that there is an autumn flavor in the air. On page 172, on the day of the funeral, the sky turns dark and a drizzle starts.

Chapter IX

1. How does Catherine respond during the trial?

   Catherine shows amazing strength of character. She swears her sister has never seen Gatsby and is a faithful wife to George. Perhaps in her mind, it is true regarding Gatsby. However, Catherine does know of Myrtle's affair with Tom.

2. Why is it important to Catherine that her story seem true?

   Catherine does not want her, or her sister's name, tarnished. Catherine also has no esteem for Mr. Wilson and does not mind that this murder makes him seem crazy.

3. When it is time for the funeral, what becomes of Gatsby's friends?

   Nick proves to be a good friend and is there to help Gatsby's father with arrangements. Tom and Daisy skip town. Wolfsheim is tied up with business. The postman and four or five servants show up at the house. Owl Eyes shows up late, at the graveside. All those who frequented his parties are nowhere to be found.

4. Describe Gatsby's father.

   Gatsby's father is Henry C. Gatz from Minnesota. He is a solemn old man with a sparse gray beard.

5. Mr. Gatz compares his son, Jay Gatsby, to James J. Hill. Explain the significance of this allusion.

   Henry Gatz is very proud of his son, and like any father he had big dreams for him. Mr. Gatz compares Gatsby to James J. Hill because Hill was a man who started out with nothing and worked up to owning many of the railway companies covering the North American continent. Hill made something big of himself, and Mr. Gatz is sure that Gatsby would have done the same.

6. What irony is found in the top paragraph on page 170?

   At the Swastika Holding Company, there is a Jewess working.

7. Where is Gatsby buried?

   Gatsby is buried in the East.

8. What is Nick's fantastic dream? How does Nick view the East?

   Nick's dream is about four solemn men in dress suits who are carrying a drunken woman on a stretcher. They go into the wrong house. "But no one knows the woman's name, and no one cares." (Pg. 176) At this point, Nick views the East as a cold, heartless place.

9. What becomes of Jordan and Nick's relationship?

   Before Nick leaves the East, he meets Jordan to talk with her. She announces she is engaged to someone else. She accuses him of dumping her on the phone. Nick walks away, angry, half in love, and tremendously sorry.

10. Explain the analogy on page 177 comparing drivers with relationships.

    Jordan compares herself with a bad driver. It is all right to be a bad driver until you meet another bad driver [Nick]. When a car with a good driver meets a car with a bad driver, accidents can be prevented since the good driver will compensate for the mistakes of the bad driver. In relationships, weaknesses can be compensated for as well, unless both partners have the same weakness. Her accusations are that Nick is neither honest nor straightforward. The irony in her accusations is that she is neither honest nor straightforward, that is the downfall of their relationship.

11. When does Nick head west?

    It is Christmas time when Nick leaves the East.

12. Describe Nick and Tom's final meeting.

    Nick sees Tom in October, on Fifth Avenue, in front of a jewelry store. Nick stops Tom and confronts him regarding the day Wilson killed Gatsby. He knew then that it was Tom who told Wilson that Gatsby had killed Myrtle. Nick sees that Tom and Daisy are reckless people who think only of themselves; careless people who smash things up and then retreat back into their money.

13. Summarize the final message of the epilogue.

    Sometimes one spends so much time chasing a dream that one fails to realize the dream has already passed. Try as one may, one will never capture that which is past.

14. From what viewpoint is *The Great Gatsby* told?

    The Great Gatsby *is narrated by Nick in both first and third person, presenting only what he observes. At times, Nick presents events objectively, as they appear to him at the time. Alternately, he steps out of the story and gives his interpretation of the story's meaning and the motives of the characters.*

15. What events constitute the rising action, climax, and falling action?

    The rising action takes place in the first four chapters and includes the descriptions of both Buchanan's and Gatsby's homes, and the lavish parties. The climax could be Gatsby's reunion with Daisy in chapters V and VI or Gatsby and Tom's meeting in the hotel. The falling action is Daisy's rejection of Gatsby, Myrtle's death, and Gatsby's murder.

The Great Gatsby

Advanced Placement in English Literature and Composition Teaching Unit

Study Guide
Student Copy

Chapter I

1. What purpose do the first four paragraphs serve?

2. What advice does Nick's father give him? Why does Fitzgerald have Nick share his father's advice with the reader?

3. What other method does Fitzgerald use to persuade the reader that Nick is credible?

4. What does the statement "When I came back from the East last autumn..." tell you about the story to follow? (Pg. 2)

5. What importance is there in Nick's statement that "My family have been prominent, well-to-do people…for three generations"? (Pg. 3)

6. What is the setting of the story?

7. Interpret the meaning of the simile on page 4: “They [books on investments and securities] stood like new money from the mint.”

8. How is West Egg different from East Egg?

9. What is the relationship between Nick and Daisy and Tom Buchanan?

10. Interpret the oxymoron on page 6: “two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all.”

11. Cite the device and the imagery that Fitzgerald uses on page 6 to make the Buchanan palace seem alive.

12. Describe Tom Buchanan. What tone does the author use in his description?

13. Analyze Fitzgerald’s method of creating mood inside the Buchanan’s palace.

14. Who is the other person in the Buchanan home?

15. Cite the anaphoras on page 9 and explain their use.

16. What is the author's purpose in the use of the hyperbole on page 9?

17. What annoys Nick about Tom's response to Nick's employment?

18. What allusion is on page 12? What social issue does the allusion highlight?

19. Why does Miss Baker refer to California after the discussion of white supremacy?

20. What unflattering feature of Jordan Baker's personality is revealed?

21. During the dinner conversation, Nick wanted to "look squarely at every one, and yet to avoid all eyes." (Pg. 15) This statement is an example of what type of rhetorical device? What does this convey to the reader?

22. When the telephone rings, why does Nick say that no one "was able utterly to put this fifth guest's shrill metallic urgency out of mind"? (Pg. 15)

23. Why is Nick's instinct "to telephone immediately for the police"? (Pg. 16)

24. What is the reader left to think about Daisy's emotional state and her relationship with Tom?

25. What did Daisy mean when she said of Pammy, "I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool – that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." (Pg. 17)

26. When Nick starts the engine of his car, Daisy stops him by making the statement, "We heard you were engaged to a girl out West." What does Nick's answer reveal about his character? (Pg. 19)

27. 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?

28. How does Fitzgerald change the mood of the story in the second paragraph on page 20?

29. The green light that Gatsby is staring at is mentioned several more times and assumes symbolic significance. Where do you think the green light might be? What can it mean?

Chapter II

1. In the first paragraph of chapter two, what device does Fitzgerald use to create a musical effect? Cite some examples.

2. On a literal level, what is the valley of ashes? What might it represent on a symbolic level?

3. What overlooks the valley of ashes? What might they symbolize?

4. Contrast Daisy with Myrtle, Tom's mistress.

5. Analyze Nick's statement "I think he'd tanked up a good deal at luncheon, and his determination to have my company bordered on violence." (Pg. 24)

6. What method of character development does Fitzgerald employ to develop the character of Myrtle?

7. What is the significance of the name George Wilson?

8. How has Fitzgerald used colors to support the developing theme of the American dream?

9. Myrtle says of her sister, "She's said to be very beautiful by people who ought to know." (Pg. 28) What does this statement say about society?

10. On page 29, how does Fitzgerald emphasize the smallness of the apartment?

11. In what way is the party in the apartment different from the dinner at the Buchanan's in Chapter 1? In what way is it similar?

12. The McKees appear only in chapter II. Why does Fitzgerald bring them into the story?

13. What does Fitzgerald convey through the use of an asyndeton on pages 30 and 31?

14. What rumor does Nick hear about Gatsby?

15. Although Catherine comments that neither Tom nor Myrtle care about the one they married, how does the reader know that that isn't true?

16. What seems to be the feeling towards divorce in the 1920s?

Chapter III

1. What is the setting for Chapter III?

2. In what ways is chapter II like chapter III?

3. Why is it that Fitzgerald waits until chapter III to introduce Gatsby?

4. There are at least two examples of a polysyndenton in chapter three. Identify one of them, and explain what it contributes to the impact of the chapter.

5. What does Nick's twice insisting that he had "actually been invited" suggest?

6. Nick comments that the people at the party conduct "themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with an amusement park." Analyze what is being conveyed by the comparison.

7. What metaphor does Fitzgerald use to convey the theme of hollowness in the upper class?

8. Explain the meaning of the statement "…the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental, and profound." (Pg. 47)

9. What do Gatsby and Nick have in common?

10. 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"? (Pg. 48)

11. Although there are many rumors regarding Gatsby, there is a clue given to the reader about what the nature of Gatsby's work may be. What is the clue? What might it indicate is his work?

12. In what way is Gatsby's behavior at his party quite unlike the behavior of most of his guests?

13. Explain the symbolism of the simile, on page 51"…at intervals she appeared suddenly at his side like an angry diamond, and hissed: 'You promised!' into his ear."

14. What is the significance of the phone calls that Gatsby receives? How does it add to the development of his character? What does the lack of calls to Buchanan demonstrate?

15. What does the author do to convey the idea that the gentleman driving the car is drunk?

16. The first three chapters span what time period?

17. In the final paragraph on page 55, how does the viewpoint change? How is this accomplished? What is the purpose?

18. What purpose does the character of Jordan Baker fulfill?

19. What is the second ugly character flaw revealed about Jordan? How does this affect the reader?

20. 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?

21. What is revealed about Nick's character?

22. How does the motif of geography in the novel help shape its themes and characters?

Chapter IV

1. What is the significance of the date on the timetable?

2. How does Fitzgerald's use of names further the motif of geography?

3. What symbol does Fitzgerald use as the outward manifestation of Gatsby's wealth? What theme does this reinforce?

4. Describe Gatsby's car.

5. What causes Nick to think that Gatsby cannot be telling the truth? What changes his mind?

6. Gatsby fills Nick in on the details of his life for what reason?

7. In the middle of page 69, how does Fitzgerald further the mood and reinforce the theme of the Roaring Twenties?

8. Where do Gatsby and Nick go for lunch? Whom do they meet?

9. Analyze the techniques used to develop the character of Wolfsheim.

10. What do the characters of Buchanan and Wolfsheim represent?

11. What government act extended the activities of the underworld?

12. Explain Gatsby's statement: "Miss Baker's a great sportswoman, you know, and she'd never do anything that wasn't all right." (Pg. 71)

13. What matter does Jordan speak to Nick about? How does she know this information?

14. Jordan informs the reader that Daisy was 18 when she and Gatsby consummated their love. What significance does her age have?

15. Why is Daisy so upset on her wedding day?

16. Interpret the metaphor "He [Gatsby] came alive to me [Nick], delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor." (Pg. 78)

17. Why is it important to Gatsby that Daisy see his house?

18. What symbolism is there in the name Daisy Fay?

19. What overall purpose do the three events in chapter 4 accomplish?

20. What part of Fretag's pyramid does the description of the parties fill?

Chapter V

1. When Nick comes home to West Egg that night, what does he find unusual? How does this description contribute to the mood?

2. Why does Gatsby suggest that he and Nick "go to Coney Island," or "take a plunge in the swimming-pool"? (Pg. 81, 82)

3. How does Gatsby show that he is grateful to Nick for his agreeing to call Daisy?

4. Throughout Chapter V, how does Fitzgerald use weather to reinforce the mood? On the morning of the meeting, the climax of this part of the story, it is pouring.

5. Cite the hyperbole, on page 84, and explain the effects created.

6. How does Daisy's agreeing to come to Nick's house without Tom contribute to the theme of changing moral values?

7. Explain how the ambiguous metaphor on page 85, about Daisy's voice, is appropriate.

8. How does Fitzgerald show the changes in Gatsby?

9. What literary purpose does the broken clock serve?

10. What makes Gatsby sound like Tom?

11. What arouses Nick's suspicions about Gatsby's past? What suspicion does this apparent lie reinforce?

12. What changes take place in Gatsby during Daisy's visit?

13. Analyze the passage "He had been full of the idea so long, dreamed it right through to the end, waited with his teeth set, so to speak, at an inconceivable pitch of intensity. Now, in the reaction, he was running down like an overwound clock." (Pg. 92)

14. Why does Daisy cry about the shirts?

15. As the three of them look across the bay toward Daisy'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. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one." (Pg. 93) 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."

16. Explain the statement on page 95, "Daisy tumbled short of his dreams."

17. Cite and explain the metaphor on page 96.

18. Who is the protagonist: Gatsby or Nick?

Chapter VI

1. What is the purpose of chapter VI?

2. In what sense does this chapter epitomize the American dream?

3. What purpose does the biblical allusion on page 98: "He was a son of God…and he must be about His Father's business" serve?

4. Who is Jay Gatsby?

5. What is the meaning of the statement "…they [reveries] were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy's wing"? (Pg. 99)

6. Analyze the meaning of the name Dan Cody.

7. How long was Gatsby employed by Cody?

8. Why does Gatsby not drink?

9. Describe Tom's first visit to Gatsby's home.

10. Knowing Tom, how can one account for his comment about being "old-fashioned" and "women run[ning] around too much these days to suit [him]"? (Pg. 103)

11. What does the word choice "menagerie" help Fitzgerald convey?

12. Explain Gatsby's expectations of Daisy. Are they realistic?

13. At the bottom of page 110, Nick narrates the event of Daisy's and Gatsby's first kiss. He says that Gatsby knews that, after kissing Daisy, "…his mind would never romp again like the mind of God." What does this mean?

Chapter VII

1. What allusion does Trimalchio represent?

2. Identify and explain the personification on page 113.

3. What foreshadows trouble at the Gatsby mansion?

4. Why did Gatsby replace his servants?

5. What is the meaning of Gatsby's statement to Tom, "I'm right across from you"? (Pg. 118)

6. What does Daisy mean when she says "…everything's so confused"? (Pg. 119)

7. What alerts Tom that his wife has other interests? What is Tom's response?

8. Interpret the metaphor "Her voice is full of money." (Pg. 120)

9. Identify the oxymorons that describe the expressions that pass by Gatsby's face. Explain their importance.

10. On page 121, Tom insists on driving Gatsby's car. Why? How does Daisy respond? How does Gatsby respond?

11. Does Tom like Gatsby's car?

12. What causes Mr. Wilson's sickness?

13. Why do you suppose that Tom decides to let Wilson finally have the car he has been promising him?

14. How does the news about the Wilson's leaving affect Tom?

15. Who sees Tom driving the yellow car besides Mr. Wilson? What is their response?

16. What do Tom and Wilson have in common? How does each respond?

17. What is Gatsby's explanation of his being at Oxford? Why is it important to Tom to expose the Oxford-man lie?

18. Reread the first paragraph on page 130. What theme is supported by Tom's argument?

19. When Gatsby confronts Tom with the comments "Your wife doesn't love you. She's never loved you. She loves me." (Pg. 130) What is Gatsby's meaning?

20. What is Tom's response to his wife's infidelity?

21. Describe the emotions that Daisy goes through as Tom and Gatsby argue.

22. How has Gatsby gotten some of his money? What does Tom say that startles Gatsby?

23. What is the outcome of the argument in the hotel room?

24. Analyze the significance of Nick's statement "… 'I just remembered that today's my birthday.' I was thirty." (Pg. 135)

25. How does Fitzgerald foreshadow what is about to happen?

26. Analyze the statement "So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight." (Pg. 136)

27. How does Myrtle die?

28. Why is Myrtle running out of the garage towards the car?

29. How do Tom, Jordan, and Nick find out about the accident?

30. What is Wilson's response to Myrtle's death? Tom's response? Gatsby's response?

31. What does Fitzgerald convey to the reader by choosing the word "conspiring" in the description of Tom and Daisy in their kitchen?

32. Why does Gatsby loiter outside of the Buchanans' house? How does Fitzgerald let the reader know there is nothing for Gatsby to wait for?

Chapter VIII

1. How is the tone set for Chapter 8?

2. Interpret the simile "'Jay Gatsby' had broken up like glass against Tom's hard malice…" (Pg. 148)

3. On page 151, how does Fitzgerald capture the 1920s?

4. Summarize the beginning of Daisy and Gatsby's relationship, five years ago.

5. Why does Daisy give up on Gatsby? How does Gatsby learn of the relationship between Daisy and Tom?

6. In what ways can the letter from Daisy be considered Gatsby's salvation?

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19. What do you suspect happened to Wilson?

20. Cite examples of the motif that nature reflects life.

Chapter IX

1. How does Catherine respond during the trial?

2. Why is it important to Catherine that her story seem true?

3. When it is time for the funeral, what becomes of Gatsby's friends?

4. Describe Gatsby's father.

5. Mr. Gatz compares his son, Jay Gatsby, to James J. Hill. Explain the significance of this allusion.

6. What irony is found in the top paragraph on page 170?

7. Where is Gatsby buried?

8. What is Nick's fantastic dream? How does Nick view the East?

9. What becomes of Jordan and Nick's relationship?

10. Explain the analogy on page 177 comparing drivers with relationships.

11. When does Nick head west?

12. Describe Nick and Tom's final meeting.

13. Summarize the final message of the epilogue.

14. From what viewpoint is *The Great Gatsby* told?

15. What events constitute the rising action, climax, and falling action?

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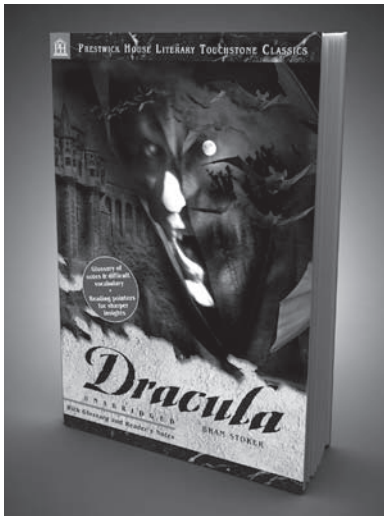

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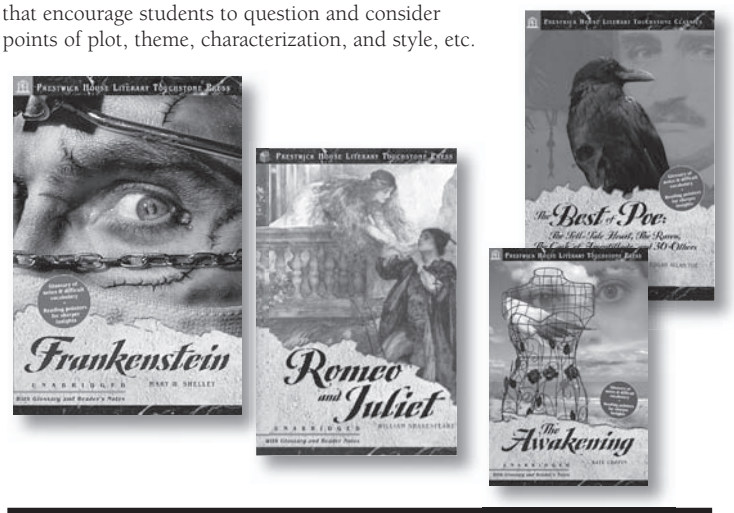

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