

English III Summer Reading Instructions

The Great Gatsby

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1. Read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Have your own copy).
2. Answer the questions for each chapter included in this packet on looseleaf to be collected during the first week of school. Label each set of questions by chapter. Staple everything together prior to the first day of school with your name identified.
3. As you are reading, mark your text and take annotated notes in the book on the following:
 - Characters and their traits
 - Conflicts that are presented
 - Setting
 - Foreshadowing moments
 - Verbal, dramatic, and situational irony
 - Symbols
 - Track the theme of appearance versus reality throughout the novel as well as other themes that you notice
4. **Be ready for a test on the first day of school!**

Chapter 1 Questions

(Answer each question on looseleaf and have everything stapled by the first day of class)

1. Where is Nick originally from, and how does this place shape who he is?
2. Why does Fitzgerald make Nick his narrator?
3. Why did Nick come to the East Coast?
4. Describe the relationship between Daisy and Tom? Were they suited for each other? Why or why not?
5. What revealing announcement did Jordan make to Nick about Tom?
6. At this point in the novel, what are your thoughts on Gatsby? How does the author want you to feel about him?
7. Of the characters you have met so far, which one seems the most likable? Least likable? Why?
8. In a few sentences each, describe the following characters:
 - Tom
 - Daisy
 - Nick
 - Jordan

Chapter 2 Questions

1. Describe the valley of ashes and the effect that living there might have on a person.
2. Who is Mr. Wilson? Why does he seem suited to live in the valley of ashes?
3. Describe Myrtle. How is she a complete contrast to where she is living?
4. Why do you think Tom chooses Myrtle as his mistress? Do you think Tom would have ever married Myrtle? Explain.
5. Commenting on the party in Manhattan, Nick says, "I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life." What does he mean here?
6. Why does Tom break Myrtle's nose? What does this reveal about Tom?
7. Fitzgerald places the billboard of the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg as brooding over the solemn dumping ground of the valley of ashes. Why do you think Fitzgerald places the billboard in the valley of ashes?

Chapter 3 Questions

1. Why do you think the author provides rumors rather than facts about Gatsby?
2. What is Nick's impression of Gatsby after meeting him at the party?
3. How is Gatsby different from his guests?
4. Why do you think Fitzgerald includes the description of the automobile accident?
5. What does the conversation with Nick about rotten drivers reveal about Jordan's personality?
6. Why is it important that the reader accept Nick's comment "I am one of the few honest people I have ever known"?

Chapter 4 Questions

1. Chapter 4 gives a long list of people who attend Gatsby's parties. In general, how do they behave towards their host? Why, then, do they accept his hospitality?
2. Describe Gatsby's car. How is the car a reflection of his personality?
3. Discuss the details that Gatsby shares with Nick about his past.
4. Does Nick believe Gatsby's story? Why or why not?
5. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim? What seems to be his connection with Gatsby?
6. Jordan Baker tells Nick about Gatsby, Daisy, and Tom. Summarize the story in 5 sentences.
7. Do we know why Gatsby has so many parties? Why did he buy the house?
8. When Gatsby spoke to Jordan in his library in Chapter 3, he had a devised plan involving Nick. What was the plan? Why didn't he ask Nick directly?

Chapter 5 Questions

1. How does Gatsby behave prior to his meeting with Daisy? Why is his choice of clothing during the meeting with her significant?
2. Why does Nick think Gatsby offered him some extra work? How does Nick react? What does this reveal about Gatsby? About Nick?
3. How does Gatsby feel as he is showing Daisy his house? What is the significance of the pile of shirts?
4. What conclusions might be drawn from the many calls Gatsby received?
5. What do you think the defunct mantelpiece clock symbolizes?

Chapters 6 Questions

1. Why do you think Fitzgerald reveals the transformation of James Gatz into Jay Gatsby at this point in the novel?
2. Who was Dan Cody, and what was his influence upon Gatsby? What did his lifestyle represent?
3. Why do you think Tom and his friends stop at Gatsby's house for a drink? What does this visit reveal about Tom and about Gatsby?
4. Why do Daisy and Tom find Gatsby's party so unpleasant? Why does Gatsby also become so uncomfortable at his own party?
5. What is Gatsby's criterion for measuring the success of his party?
6. When Nick tells Gatsby that you cannot repeat the past, Gatsby responds, "Why, of course you can!" Do you agree with Nick or Gatsby? Explain.

Chapter 7 Questions

1. How is this Chapter very similar to Chapter 1? Why do you think Fitzgerald made these two chapters similar? What is he trying to tell us as readers?
2. Compare George Wilson and Tom. How are both of their situations similar, even though they come from different social classes?
3. Why is it so important to Gatsby that Daisy admit she never loved Tom? Did Daisy truly know who she loved?
4. What is the significance of Nick's 30th birthday?
5. At the end of this Chapter, Nick leaves Gatsby standing near Daisy's house "watching over nothing." What does this suggest about Gatsby and his dream?
6. What do you think Tom and Daisy are saying to each other in the kitchen? Do you think Tom knows that Daisy was driving the "death car" at that time?
7. If you could just use one word to describe Gatsby, would that word be *fool* or *romantic*? Explain.

Chapter 8 Questions

1. How does Fitzgerald achieve a somber mood on the first page of this chapter?
2. What does the coming of fall foreshadow? How are the seasons of the year important to this novel? Explain.
3. Nick tells Gatsby, "You're worth the whole bunch put together." Why does he pay Gatsby this compliment? In what way does this statement show a change in Nick from the beginning of the novel?
4. What does Doctor T.J. Eckleburg represent to Wilson? What does this say about his mental state?
5. How do you think Wilson knows that the yellow car belongs to Gatsby?

Chapter 9 Questions

1. Why does Nick take full responsibility for Gatsby's funeral?
2. What is the significance of Klipspringer's phone conversation with Nick?
3. In what way is the schedule Henry Gatz shows Nick consistent with the character of the adult Gatsby?
4. Who attends Gatsby's funeral? Name all of them.
5. Why does Nick decide to return to the Midwest? What type of person are we to believe would survive in the East?
6. What is the purpose of Nick's final meeting with Jordan?
7. Why does Nick refer to Tom and Daisy as "careless people"?
8. What is the literary definition of a tragedy? Is this novel a tragedy in the literary sense? Why or why not?
9. At the beginning of the novel, it seems Tom and Daisy are not suited for each other. However, as the novel comes to a close, the reader can see how they are in fact suited for each other. What are similarities between the two that makes them suitable for one another?
10. At the beginning of the novel, Nick says, "Gatsby turned out all right in the end; it was what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men." Now that you have completed the novel, how would you interpret this statement?

