

Christopher Strathman
AP English Literature & Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
10 Aug 2022

The Great Gatsby Summer Reading Journal

Directions: You are required to keep a **reading journal** throughout the reading of *The Great Gatsby*. A chapter response entry must be completed for each chapter. These journals will be due the day we return from Summer vacation (10 August 2022)

Each chapter and response category must be correctly labeled in your journal as outlined below or they will not be graded, so format is extremely important.

Each new chapter requires a new journal entry. If your responses exceed one page, continue your heading on all subsequent pages. Also make certain to include the section headings (Chapter Summary, Character Summary, Chapter Quotation, Theme Analysis, and Discussion Questions).

Chapter Heading

Each chapter heading must include the chapter number and inclusive page numbers. (e.g., **Chapter 1, pp. 1-23**)

Chapter Summary

- Begins with a well-written, insightful (3-5 sentences) chapter summary
- Correct any grammar, usage, and/or mechanical errors

Character Summary

- For each chapter, choose a distinctive character on which to focus your Character Summary (you may repeat a character only ONCE)
- Name the character
- Identify one signature character trait or quality (only those mentioned in the story thus far)

Character List

Nick Carraway
Daisy Buchanan
Tom Buchanan
Jordan Baker
George Wilson
Myrtle Wilson
Jay Gatsby
Meyer Wolfsheim

Chapter Quotation

From each chapter, choose and copy down one meaningful quotation, and then describe its significance to the story, plot, or theme. What made it stand out?

Theme Analysis

Choose ONE of the themes from the list provided below and analyze how the events of this chapter support this overall theme. Your response should be 3-5 sentences in length and include specific evidence from the novel to support your response.

List of Themes

--*honesty*: the standards for honesty and morality seem to be dependent on class and gender in this novel

--*decay*: Fitzgerald seems to suggest that **the American Dream** has been perverted and reversed -- the novel focuses on the decay of American society.

--*gender roles*: Fitzgerald writes about gender roles in a quite conservative manner. Men work to earn money for the maintenance of the women. The women in the novel do not divide into the traditional groups of Mary Magdalene and Madonna figures; instead, none of them are pure.

--*violence*: violence is a key theme in the novel represented by physical violence, cars, and weapons

--*social class*: social class is an unusual theme for an American novel. The societies of East and West Egg are deeply divided by the difference between the newly rich and the older moneyed families

--*religion*: Fitzgerald chooses to use religious images in a novel that focuses on the American Dream -- a concept which leaves little room for traditional organized religion or religious values.

--*World War I*: because *The Great Gatsby* is set in the Roaring 20's, the topic of the Great War is unavoidable, especially in relation to Gatsby's past

Discussion Question

For each Chapter, create one high-level, critical thinking discussion question and respond with an answer in a Q and A format. Be prepared to defend and discuss your questions and responses.