**The Great Gatsby Studyguide**

AP English Language Summer Reading Assignment

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences (typed), and bring both the questions and the answers to the first day of class.

**Chapter One**

1. What other method does Fitzgerald use to persuade the reader that Nick is credible?
2. Interpret the meaning of the following simile: “They [books on investments and securities] stood like new money from the mint.”
3. What type of imagery does Fitzgerald use to make the Buchanan palace come alive? What is Fitzgerald’s purpose of this?
4. During the dinner conversation, Nick wanted to “look squarely at everyone, 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?
5. 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 do you think it means?

**Chapter Two**

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? What overlooks the valley of ashes? What might they symbolize?
3. 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.”
4. How does Fitzgerald emphasize the smallness of Myrtle’s apartment?
5. In what way is the party in the apartment different from the dinner at the Buchanan’s in chapter one? In what ways is it similar?

**Chapter Three**

1. Why is it that Fitzgerald waits until chapter three to introduce Gatsby?
2. There are at least two examples of a polysyndeton in chapter three. Identify one of them, and explain what it contributes to the impact of the chapter.
3. Explain the symbolism of the following simile, “…at intervals she appeared suddenly at his side like an angry diamond, and hissed: ‘You promised!’ into his ear.”
4. In the final paragraph on page 55, how does the viewpoint change? How is this accomplished? What is the purpose?
5. How does the motif of geography in the novel help shape its themes and characters?

**Chapter Four**

1. How does Fitzgerald’s use of names further the motif of geography?
2. What symbol does Fitzgerald use as the outward manifestation of Gatsby’s wealth? What theme does this reinforce?
3. Analyze the techniques used to develop the character of Wolfsheim.
4. Interpret the metaphor “He [Gatsby] came alive to me [Nick], delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor.”
5. What overall purpose do the three events in chapter four accomplish?
Chapter Five
1. When Nick comes home to West Egg that night, what does he find unusual? How does this description contribute to the mood?
2. Throughout chapter five, how does Fitzgerald use weather to reinforce the mood?
3. Explain how the ambiguous metaphor about Daisy’s voice is appropriate.
4. How does Fitzgerald show the changes in Gatsby?
5. What literary purpose does the broken clock serve?

Chapter Six
1. In what sense does this chapter epitomize the American dream?
2. What purpose does the following biblical allusion: “He was a son of God…and he must be about His Father’s business” serve?
3. What does the word choice “menagerie” help Fitzgerald convey?
4. Explain Gatsby’s expectations of Daisy. Are they realistic?
5. Nick narrates the event of Daisy’s and Gatsby’s first kiss. He says that Gatsby knew that, after kissing Daisy, “…his mind would never romp again like the mind of God.” What does this mean?

Chapter Seven
1. What allusion does Trimalchio represent?
2. What is the meaning of Gatsby’s statement to Tom, “I’m right across from you”?
3. Interpret the metaphor “Her voice is full of money”.
4. Identify the oxymorons that describe the expressions that pass by Gatsby’s face. Explain their importance.
5. What does Fitzgerald convey to the reader by choosing the word “conspiring” in the description of Tom and Daisy in their kitchen?

Chapter Eight
1. How is the tone set for chapter eight?
2. Interpret the following simile: “Jay Gatsby had broken up like glass against Tom’s hard malice…”
3. What motif reappears in chapter eight? What meaning is attributed to it?
4. Analyze the technique that Fitzgerald uses to indicate that Gatsby is no longer living in a dream and to foreshadow who his killer may be.
5. Cite examples of the motif that nature reflects life.

Chapter Nine
1. Mr. Gatz compares his son, Jay Gatsby, to James J. Hill. Explain the significance of this allusion.
2. Explain the analogy that compares drivers with relationships.
3. Summarize and analyze the final message of the epilogue.
4. From what viewpoint is The Great Gatsby told? What do you think is Fitzgerald’s purpose in this choice?
5. What events constitute the rising action, climax, and falling action?