

Summer Reading 2011

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Dates: **12 August—Socratic Seminar and Annotations**
 16 August—IB Paper 2 Practice (no text)
 18/22 August—Deconstruction of 40 lines of text; written and/or oral

I. Annotations—5 colors—make a color chart

A. Syntax—5 per chapter

***Must include a minimum of ONE of each asterisked item per chapter entry : 5-8, 9-10, 15 and 20.**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Declarative | 14. Juxtaposition |
| 2. Imperative | 15. Parallel structure/syntax* |
| 3. Interrogative | 16. Repetition |
| 4. Exclamatory | 17. Rhetorical question |
| 5. Simple sentence OR | 18. Rhetorical fragment |
| 6. Compound sentence OR | 19. Anaphora |
| 7. Complex sentence OR | 20. Asyndeton or polysyndeton* |
| 8. Compound-complex sentence* | 21. Chiasmus |
| 9. Loose or cumulative sentence OR | 22. Stichomythia |
| 10. Periodic sentence* | 23. Zeugma |
| 11. Balanced sentence | 24. Punctuation usage: ellipses, dashes, colons, semicolons, etc... |
| 12. Natural order of a sentence | |
| 13. Inverted order of a sentence | |

CM “helpers”- ways to describe syntax CD’s

Plain, spare, austere, unadorned

Ornate, elaborate, flowery

Jumbled, chaotic

Erudite, esoteric

Journalistic, terse, laconic

Harsh, grating

Mellifluous, musical, lilting, lyrical

Whimsical

Elegant

Staccato, abrupt

Solid, thudding

Sprawling, disorganized

Dry

Deceptively simple

B. Themes

1. The American Dream is corrupted by the desire for wealth.
2. Outward appearances can be deceiving- Illusion versus Reality
3. Satirical portrait of modern society.
4. Isolationism

C. Symbols and Motifs

East/West	Valley of Ashes	eggs
Daisy's voice	Cars and driving	T.J. Eckleburg's eyes
Colors: green, white, yellow, pink, gold, etc...	House and apartment descriptions	Anything else?

D. Imagery—be sure to label the senses: tactile, olfactory, gustatory, auditory, visual

E. Free Choice

II. Socratic Seminar Preparation

themes, symbols, predicaments/conflicts, relationships, attitude(s), characters' connections to issues and themes, anything else???

III. Writing—IB Paper 2 practice

IV. Detailed Study—IOC practice

V. Things to think about

Chapters 1-2

1. Who is the narrator of the novel? What details does the reader learn about his background and what is revealed about his personality? Why does he go east, and where does he live?
2. Who are Tom and Daisy Buchanan? What does Nick learn about Tom when he joins the Buchanans for dinner?
3. Annotate the descriptions of the parties "we" have attended thus far. How does each description (check details and diction) represent each social group? What differences and/or similarities exist?
4. One of the novel's themes concerns the deceptiveness of outward appearances. How does the character of Myrtle Wilson illustrate this theme? On what basis does Myrtle choose the men with whom she becomes involved?
5. At the conclusion of Chapter 3, Nick says "I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known." To what kind of honesty do you think he refers? In what way is his claim supported in the novel? Does he do anything to cause you to question his honesty? Why is the question of Nick's honesty significant? Annotate your findings.
6. Why do you think Daisy scorns the fact that she is "sophisticated"?
7. In chapter 2, Myrtle Wilson says of the elevator boy, "These people! You have to keep after them all the time." Why is this ironic? How are the circumstances resulting in her broken nose ironic?
8. How does Fitzgerald use setting to emphasize the differences between social classes?
 - How does West Egg differ from East Egg?
 - What is the meaning of the Valley of Ashes?
 - What colors are associated with which social classes?

Chapter Three

1. Analyze/annotate the usage of syntax in the description of Gatsby's party atmosphere. Connect to themes. *
2. Note the usage of color in the passages that describe the party (43-45). Analyze usage.

3. How does Fitzgerald use dashes in this chapter? Analyze and annotate.
4. Note Gatsby's guests: the British, the "twins," Mr. Mumble. Why does Fitzgerald include such individuals? Connect to themes.
5. Closely analyze the library scene (49-50).
6. Analyze organization of the passage that introduces Gatsby (52). Why does Fitzgerald decide to give the reading audience its first impression of Gatsby in this manner?
7. Annotate/analyze usage of diction, details, and syntax in the description of Gatsby (52-53).*
8. Note the isolation of Gatsby (54-55). Annotate significance.
9. What is Fitzgerald's purpose in including the details that he does while describing the closing atmosphere of the party, ie. departure of guests, car incident, Gatsby's farewell, Jordan details, etc...? Connect to themes.
10. Why does Fitzgerald use syntax and incorporate certain details in the description of Nick's summer life (61-62)? Also, note usage of irony.

Chapter Four

1. Closely analyze the list of Gatsby's guests. Note details and syntax. Why does the author include this list and in this particular form (65-67)?
2. Annotate/analyze Gatsby's physical description and the description of his car (68). Note diction, details, and syntax. Connect to themes. *
3. What is interesting about the details of Gatsby's self-dictated past and Nick's reaction to it (70-71)?
4. Note details in this chapter that support the claim that Gatsby is involved in organized crime. Connect to details in previous chapters.
5. Comment on the use of juxtaposition in the passages that describe the entering of the city (73). * What is the purpose of this organization and of the details included?
6. Note irony throughout in the Wolfsheim meeting.
7. Note the details of Gatsby and Daisy's love affair.
8. Annotate significance of pearl necklace.
9. Annotate/note the details of Gatsby's obsession with his dream of Daisy.

Chapter Five

1. Note the details that are included about weather during the tea meeting scene and throughout the chapter. Annotate for significance.
2. Annotate for significance the details of Gatsby's attire/color connotations (89).
3. Analyze usage of the interjection (90). *
4. Note the significance of diction and details in the description of Daisy's voice (90).
5. Analyze the clock details/imagery (91-92, 97).
6. Why is it important to Gatsby that Daisy sees his house and possessions? What does Daisy's reaction to his shirts suggest? Analyze syntax (97-98). *
7. Note the details given in the green light passages (98). Annotate for significance.
8. Reread the last paragraphs of Chapter 5 (101). What is Fitzgerald saying about the American Dream? Analyze syntax and details included.

Chapter Six

1. What do we find out about Gatsby's past (104-107)? How is it significant and connect to our themes?
2. Despite his material success, Gatsby is still not an accepted component in Daisy's world (107-110). Note details that make this evident. Explain how syntax sets tone.
3. Note the details that prove that despite her love of Gatsby, Daisy is still not a true part of his world (112-115). Note the initial description of the party and details throughout. Annotate evidence. *
4. What does Gatsby begin to realize? What does he desire? Why is Daisy so important to him (116)?
5. Reread the last 3 paragraphs of Chapter 6 (117). What are Gatsby's "unutterable visions"? What is the "incarnation" that is mentioned? How does this passage explain the next five years of his life? Analyze imagery and syntax usage in support of your claims. *

Chapter Seven

1. Identify a CD that SHOWS how Tom discovers that Daisy loves Gatsby. Analyze the details included (125).
2. Note details and syntax used to describe Daisy's voice (127). Thoroughly explain.
3. Analyze use of dashes (128-129).
4. Note and explain irony of organization (130-131).
5. Analyze syntactical choices made in this scene (138-140). Why is Daisy unable to say that she never loved Tom (140)? Why do you think Gatsby is unable to accept the fact that she has loved them both?
6. Gatsby loses Daisy (142). Find details to support this claim. Why does Daisy choose Tom over Gatsby?
7. Cars are symbolic of identities. In this chapter, how does Tom strip Gatsby of his identity, symbolically? What does he do to emphasize his triumph (142)?
8. Why does Nick comment that Gatsby was "watching over nothing"?

Chapter Eight

1. Gatsby tells his true history (158). Be sure you can summarize it.
2. Why does Nick tell Gatsby, "They're a rotten crowd...You're worth the whole bunch put together" (162)?
3. What, ironically and symbolically, is the tangible clue George finds that makes him suspect that his wife is/was having an affair? Annotate.
4. Fitzgerald includes a symbolic representation of God. Describe it and evaluate what George states regarding this symbol (167). What is the author saying about God and modern society?
5. Nick states, before Gatsby was shot, "he must have felt that he had lost the old warm world, paid a high price for living too long with a single dream" (169). How would you interpret this passage?
6. What is the holocaust? Why name it this?

Chapter Nine

1. Why do you think almost none of Gatsby's social and business associates come to his funeral? What is the point Fitzgerald is attempting to make?
2. *The Great Gatsby* is a story about the West (184). Identify the CD to support his claim and explain what Fitzgerald means by this comment. What does the narrator say about the East? Identify the CD and explain its meaning.
3. We revisit the car theme. Identify the CD and explain its significance (186).
4. Nick's strongest judgment of Tom and Daisy comes at the end (187-88). Identify the CD and explain why Nick steps out of character-he says in the beginning that he is a person who withholds judgment-and makes this harsh statement. How do you think Nick feels about the Buchanans' wealth?
5. Annotate the last page of the novel- what is Fitzgerald's message?