Monthly Budget for the Fitzgerald Family, 1923

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from F. Scott Fitzgerald's private papers Yes, this is own handwriting (cool, no?)

Monthly Budget for the Fitzgerald Family, 1923

TAKES	200.00	TRIPS, PLERSURE	URE + PRINTIES
-	300.00		100
ī	200 00	House Liquor	<u>8</u>
Com. 1990		PLAZA	26.30
1001	8 20	ALABAMA	250
645	37.00	HTCHWIC CITY	30 00
LIGHT	7	THEHINE	8 2
PHONE	200	HAIR DRESSING	15 00
WH TER	3 !	CHRRITY	88
SERVANTS	245.00	MILDPHRICE	15.80
TOC TO B C	42 50	Taxis Gambline	33 80
TRUCK STORE		LUNCHES (N.Y)	25.60
Clud an are	05 50	SUBWAY (CCI)	37,600
THE WOOD PERSON	1		
BOOKS	1 4 50		
FLOW ERS	_		
AUTO	23 00		
PLUMBER	13 50		
ELECTRIC	1 20		
COMUT RTION	8		
Security CLOTHES	33 8		
Lelda's CLETHES	88		
Duny's CLOMES	-		
HOUSE HOLD	00/18		
CHARGES	-		1680.40
		SASH WALL BLOKE SHOWING CO.	

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Living the Good Life?

A Peek into the Fitzgeralds' Pocketbook

For the following questions, compute the answers into today's dollars. Use this figure, based on the online calculator of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

\$1.00 in 1923 = \$13.73 today

1. Get your calculator and figure out how much money, in today's dollars, the couple spent on:

Rent? House liquor and wild parties?

Food? Entertainment, not including above?

Servants? Ice? (Why so much?)

Clothes for Zelda? Plumber? (Why so much?)

Clothes for F. Scott?

Total monthly expenses?

Clothes for their daughter, Scotty?

Charity?

What percentage of their total expenses went to charity?

- 2. What word did Fitzgerald misspell? (Take comfort in knowing that even great writers mess up sometimes.)
- 3. In the space below, write a summary of what you learned about the Fitzgeralds' lifestyle. What sounds good? What sounds bad? What do their purchases say about their priorities? Do you think people today have similar or different priorities? Explain your answers. (So, yes, I'm looking for at least five sentences here. Feel free to continue your answer on the back of this sheet.)

