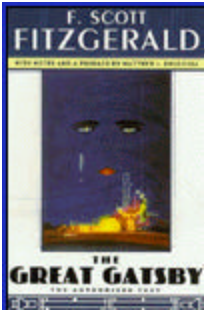




FLVS English III Pre-Course Reading



In order to earn honors credit in English II or American Studies you must complete the following pre-requisite reading.

1. You will need to obtain a copy of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald from your local library or purchase a copy at your local bookstore.
2. Read and analyze the text of the novel by completing Parts I, II and III.

Part I: The Great Gatsby: Characterization and American Morals

After each character's name, list the corrupt behaviors of that character and the consequences that character suffers as a result. There will often be more than one corrupt behavior.

Character	Behavior	Consequences
Jay Gatsby		
Daisy Buchanan		
Tom Buchanan		
Jordan Baker		
Myrtle Wilson		
George Wilson		

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Part 2: The Great Gatsby: The American Dream

1. In your opinion, what is "The American Dream?"
2. According to the media, advertisements, salaries, and society in general, what is "The American Dream"? How does this compare to your definition of "The American Dream?"
3. List at least 5 elements that make up Jay Gatsby's American Dream. (you may use the chart below)
4. For each of the five elements listed in #3, consider what is wrong with either Gatsby's concept of the dream or the way he attempts to attain it. (you may use the chart below)
5. As you read the novel, copy down a specific quotation or quotations which most relates to the concept of the American Dream as it is presented in the novel.

Elements that Make Up Jay Gatsby's American Dream	What is Wrong With Gatsby's Concept of the Dream or The Way He Attempts to Attain It
1.	
2.	
3.	

4.	
5.	

 [Click here to download this table](#) (PDF file) **Part 3: Understanding the Historical Context and Setting of the Novel**

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* is a specific portrait of American society during the Roaring Twenties. In this assignment you will explore the connection between history and literature.

Step 1: Go to <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade20.html> and <http://www.wsu.edu/~campbell/amlit/1920.htm>

Review the major people, places and events in The Arts, News & Politics, Science, Business, Society and Sports. As you review these resources, think about how they illuminate your understanding of *The Great Gatsby*.

Step 2: After researching the 1920s, respond to the following statement in an essay, either agreeing or disagreeing. Your essay should be at least 4 paragraphs in length (minimum of 6 sentences in each paragraph).

Quote

"The beauty and splendor of Gatsby's parties masked the innate corruption within the heart of the Roaring Twenties. Jazz-Age society was a bankrupt world, devoid of morality, and plagued by a crisis of character."

- If you agree with this statement, you must find specific support from **both** the novel and from history to support your view.
- If you disagree with this statement, you must find specific support from **both** the novel and from history to support your view.

Paragraph 1: Find a quotation from the novel or pose a question to begin your essay. Introduce your thesis statement. Do you agree or disagree with the statement ** ? Why?

Paragraphs 2: Discuss at least 5 references to people, places and events in the 1920s as specific support for your thesis. For example you might include a discussion of Prohibition, Gangsters, the Stock Market, and Fads if you agree with the statement. If you disagree you might discuss Technological or Scientific Advances, Social Reforms, Literature, Music and Inventors or Inventions.

Paragraph 3: How do the characters, plot and theme of *The Great Gatsby* support or refute the statement that "the Jazz-Age society was a bankrupt world, devoid of morality, and plagued by a crisis of character"? Use specific details and lines from the novel to support your view.

Paragraph 4: Develop a conclusion which reflects on the evidence from **both** history and the novel as support for your thesis.

