

The Great Gatsby Summer Reading Assignment

For each chapter:

- A. Choose a significant passage that you appreciate as meaningful to the work as a whole and relevant to the literary feature assigned for that chapter (setting, character, etc.).
- B. Quote the passage (note the page numbers) or copy from the e-text available at <https://www.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/the-great-gatsby.pdf> . You are encouraged to color-mark, highlight, annotate, or otherwise make notes on the passage.
- C. Write a paragraph response to each passage as directed below.

Complete the following entries. Remember to discuss **literary features** + **text evidence** + **effect** in each response.

1. Chapter 1 – select a passage that describes the setting. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including stylistic devices* that affect the creation of the setting in your mind.
2. Chapter 2 - select a passage that develops a character. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including literary strategies* that affect your reaction to this character.
3. Chapter 3 - select a passage that describes the party. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including stylistic devices* that affect your reaction to this party and its participants.
4. Chapter 4 - select a passage that gives the reader background information about Gatsby. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including literary strategies* that affect your feelings about Gatsby.
5. Chapter 5 - select a passage that develops the relationship between Daisy and Gatsby. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including literary strategies* that contribute to this relationship and shape your own reaction to both Daisy and Gatsby.
6. Chapter 6 - select a passage that reveals the nature of the narrator. Discuss how this passage and the narrator contribute to your interpretation of the work as a whole. Identify the narrator's tone and literary strategies that shape it*; comment on the narrator's purpose in this chapter, as well as the effect the narrator is having on your reactions to the events and characters.
7. Chapter 7 - select a passage that utilizes symbolism. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, and comment on the effect of the symbol/s on the overall meaning of the novel.
8. Chapter 8 - select a passage that reveals Nick's attitudes. Discuss how this passage contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole, including strategies* employed by the author to reveal these attitudes. Comment on the role they play in your own reaction to the ending and to the novel as a whole.
9. Chapter 9 - How does the ending shape your overall interpretation of the novel? What theme/s stand out to you? Speculate on why this work is an American classic that is still studied and remembered.

*Some examples of literary features, stylistic devices, and strategies are listed on the last page.

Selected Literary Features – Fiction

Think of literary features as an interactive "web" where one feature can affect another (e.g., symbolism affecting character) as well as the reader's reaction to the work as a whole

IMAGERY

Visual
Auditory
Kinesthetic
Tactile
Olfactory
Gustatory

DICTION

Register (formal, informal, colloquial, dialect, nonstandard)
Denotation/connotation

FIGURATIVE & RHETORICAL FEATURES

Simile
Metaphor
Symbol
Motif
Alliteration
Personification
Hyperbole
Onomatopoeia
Paradox
Allusion
Oxymoron
Mood
Tone
Ellipsis
Understatement
Anaphora
Parallel Structure

IRONY

Verbal Irony
Situational Irony
Dramatic Irony

NARRATIVE FEATURES

Monologue, dialogue, interior monologue
Point of view
First Person
Third-Person Objective
Third-Person Limited
Omniscient

SYNTAX

Sentence length
Word order
Punctuation
Sentence Type-loose or periodic
Sentence Type-purpose, structure

CHARACTER

Types of character:
Major vs. Minor
Static vs. Dynamic
Flat vs. Round
Protagonist/Antagonist
Foil
Stock/Archetypal
Character development
Statements by narrator (explicit or implicit)
What character says and does
How character looks and lives
What other characters say about or to the character
How other characters interact with the character

SETTING: Time and Place

Time: Century, decade, year, season, day of week, time of day
Historical context
Place: Planet, continent, nation, state/province, urban/rural, indoors/outdoors, geography, terrain, lighting, atmosphere

PLOT

Types of conflict
Character vs. Character
Character vs. Nature
Character vs. Society
Character vs. Self
Character vs. Fate
Plot Arc (Freytag's Pyramid)
Exposition
Foreshadowing
Inciting Force, Incident, or Event
Rising Action
Crisis
Climax
Falling Action
Resolution (Denouement)

THEME: "Universal" human issues such as:

Ambition	Jealousy	Death
Beauty	Loneliness	Life
Betrayal	Love	War
Courage	Loyalty	
Duty	Fear	
Prejudice	Freedom	
Suffering	Happiness	
Truth	Illusion	

The final objective is to see the story as a whole and to become aware of how the parts are put together to produce a unified effect.