

THE GREAT GATSBY Reflection: From a Historical Perspective

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Character Analysis: After you watch the movie think how F. Scott Fitzgerald and the directors have tried to embed 1920s cultural elements into the characters' traits



Mrs. Sandoval-ERHS

In the 1920s the American economy soared, bringing unprecedented levels of prosperity to the nation. How did Myrtle benefit from the prosperity and also was excluded from it?

Myrtle and Gatsby have one thing in common: they're both trying to rise above their social class. How does Myrtle try to go about it differently than Gatsby?

Myrtle Wilson

Early in the film Tom references Social Darwinism and Survival of the fittest. If he truly believes in survival of the fittest why do you think he does not respect Gatsby's "new" wealth compared to his "own"?

Tom has something you can't buy... "breeding," the absolute conviction that, thanks to money and family, he was born to inhabit a certain world; and to receive respect from every other man he encounters. How does his mentality align with the idea of eugenics?

Tom Buchanan

Despite the 20s being notorious for having independent and confident women, why do you think Daisy hopes that her daughter will grow up to be a "beautiful fool"? What does this say about women's progress?

Daisy wears white and light colors often in the movie to symbolize beauty, cleanliness, wealth, and innocence. But how does she contradict the purity that she is supposed to represent?

Daisy Buchanan

Nick describes "we had all come to Gatsby's and guessed at his corruption, while he stood before us, concealing an incorruptible dream." Explain how this phrase could be used as an analogy to describe the 1920's

How do you think Gatsby serving as a soldier in WWI affected him emotionally?

Jay Gatsby

Jordan is represented as a strong willed woman. List specific examples from the film that showcase Jordan's independent attitude.

What do the typical flapper girl and Jordan have in common?

Jordan Baker

Nick comes from the Mid-West and is presented as a upstanding character at least compared to the others who are from the city. Do you think people from the cities would have been more "sinful" than those from the Mid-West? Why?

Nick is represented a nice-honest kind of guy and yet in the film Nick was easily converted to the "dark side" at certain times. Describe different points in the film that Nick broke the law.

Nick Carraway