

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Summer Reading Study Guide
English III Honors: American Literature

Fitzgerald's classic novel serves to establish themes that are infused in the literature covered throughout the year. Set in 1920's New York, the story paints a revolutionary picture of the Jazz Age; the image of glamorous hedonism is exposed as bedazzled desolation. The motifs demonstrated in this novel will establish a prevailing theme of the literature, "all that glitters* is not gold."

First, read the book's introduction and the biography of Fitzgerald; it will prepare you for the setting of the story. **Then, read the novel and complete sections A, B, and C below using your own words and information.** There are many study guides and resources that may tempt you to avoid reading the novel; however, (1) there is no substitute for the Fitzgerald's original text, and (2) disrespecting academic dishonesty will result in academic consequences.

Please type your assignment while adhering to all standards of MLA format (margins, heading, page numbers, etc.). If you need a sample of the format, click this link:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/documents/20180702110400_747-2.pdf

This assignment is due on the first day of class. Once returned, this study guide will help you study for the comprehensive assessment on the novel.

A. **CHARACTERS:** In your own words, write a description of each of the characters listed and explain his or her relevance to the plot.

1. Nick Carraway
2. Jay Gatsby
3. Tom Buchanan
4. Daisy Buchanan
5. Jordan Baker
6. Myrtle Wilson
7. George Wilson
8. Dan Cody
9. Meyer Wolfsheim
10. Henry C. Gatz

B. **ITEMS:** In your own words, write a description of each of the following significant items and explain its relevance to the novel.

1. East Egg
2. West Egg
3. The valley of ashes
4. The billboard of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg
5. The light at the end of Daisy's pier

C. **THEME:** The American Dream is a theme we will explore throughout the course. Compose a paragraph to explain your conception of the American Dream and how the novel does or does not convey that theme.

**glitters* is not a typographical error; I will eventually explain its origin