

2024 American Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment:

Evidence Gathering and Thematic Analysis of *The Great Gatsby*

WATCH AND TAKE NOTES on the following three videos, which provide necessary historical context to the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald published in 1925.

- [What Caused The Roaring 20s? \(Captivating History via YouTube\)](#)
- [The Roaring 20s Explained in 11 Minutes \(Captivating History via YouTube\)](#)
- [The Great Depression Explained in 11 Minutes \(Captivating History via YouTube\)](#)

READ AND ANNOTATE the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, making specific note of passages relating to the following themes.

- Wealth and Class
- Romance and Betrayal
- Past and Future

WRITE a minimum of three dialectical journal analyses for each of the three themes above (minimum nine total). Each individual dialectical journal analysis should include one quote related to one of the three themes and a minimum of 100 words of analysis explaining the quote in context and why it is significant to the development of the theme with which it relates. When crafting analysis, consider how the historical contexts presented in the videos contribute to readers' interpretations of these themes. The dialectical journal analyses should be typed, and the formatting of the document as well as the parenthetical citations for each quote should follow MLA Style [i.e. (Fitzgerald #)]. **However, no "Works Cited" page is needed.**

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL EXAMPLE:

"This responsiveness had nothing to do with that flabby impressionability which is dignified under the name of the "creative temperament"--it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again.

No--Gatsby turned out alright at the end; it was what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men" (Fitzgerald 2).

This quote said by Nick Carraway the narrator of the Great Gatsby describes how the narrator looks up to Gatsby because Gatsby has such a great passion of love and Nick thought he would never see someone like this ever again because it is such an admirable quality. This Exposition provides a background showing what this story is all about. But this also showed some foreshadowing as if there will be tragedy by using the words "fowl dust" as well as "abortive sorrows" they show a dark entity and set a scary mood for the reader.