

- I. Theme: An implicit or recurrent idea; a motif:**
- 1. America in the 1920s is a corrupt age/time-idealism is gone.**
 - 2. Corrupting effects of wealth**
 - 3. Present realities versus the promise of youth (final chapter)**
 - 4. The perversion of the American Dream**
 - 5. Hope- Gatsby is a symbol of hope.**
- II. Irony: Incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs**
1. “Wedding March” – argument in chapter 7
 2. Legacy of Dan Cody: Cody was a drunk v.s. Gatsby not drinking
 3. Gatsby yearns for something “better” but the irony is he is already a higher quality person than those whom he admires.
 4. Daisy is a “nice girl” but really she is not nice. (chapter 9)
 5. Pool (chapter 9)
- III. Foreshadowing: hints or clues to indicate events that will occur later in the story.**
1. Car accident at the party.
 2. Nick’s conversation with Jordan about carelessness.
 3. (chapter 8) Foghorn & Nick’s bad dreams.

IV. Symbolism: person, place or object that has a concrete meaning of its own but also stands for something else.

- 1. GREEN – “go” symbol for Gatsby- anything is possible- his hope that all his dreams will come true – money \$\$\$\$**
- 2. ASHES- desolation of life for those who never achieve material success.**
- 3. SILVER & GOLD- (yellow) colors of wealth-vulgar displays of wealth: car, dresses . . .**
- 4. DR. T.J. ECKLEBURG-all knowing observer/God**
- 5. EAST AND WEST:**
East=false values, wealth and sophistication; old money
West=moral order, based on personal traditions; new money
- 6. AUTO: symbol of wealth/destruction.**
- 7. White: symbol of purity & innocence; Daisy wears white.**
- 8. Dan Cody- symbol of American success story- struck it rich.**

(Write this at the top of the 2nd page.)

One more reason why The Great Gatsby is considered a great book:
Fitzgerald wove symbolism into the story.
It functions as a natural part of the plot.
It is not a distraction or obstruction to the story.

PAGE 2: THE GREAT GATSBY
ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

V. Protagonist: character around whom the action revolves
(Gatsby)

Forces (antagonistic) which work against the protagonist:

1. Tom
2. Wilson
3. Society

VI. Define and Explain Who is:

1. Materialism- pursuit of wealth or possessions. Daisy/Myrtle
2. Idealism – pursuit of one's ideals, goals, or dreams. Gatsby is an idealist.
3. Realism – inclination toward literal truth/pragmatism. Jordan and Nick

VII. How does the author use the following objects in the novel?

1. a pearl necklace = \$\$\$\$\$\$ money (\$350,000)
2. destroyed letter: creates suspense – implied/we know it's from Gatsby.
3. gold pencil: Daisy knows about Tom's cheating.
4. cufflinks: (made of human molars) Meyer is a shady character/gangster

VIII. From whose point of view is the story told?

NICK CARRAWAY- 1st person

What influence does the point of view have on the novel?

Nick is more objective/ neutral.

IX. What is the American Dream?

Buy a nice house, marry, have children, happiness, career, money, have a pet

What message is the author communicating about the American Dream?

The American Dream is unattainable or an illusion.

How does the author criticize this concept?

Corruption of the American Dream- substituting materialism/money & things for idealism or the dream.

X. What ethical changes has Nick gone through?

At the beginning of the story, Nick is an upper class gentleman.

He looks down on Gatsby's vulgar parties.

He dislikes Tom but overlooks his flaws.

He's attracted to Jordan but overlooks her dishonesty.

As novel progresses, he learns more about Tom's cruelty and hypocrisy,

Daisy's weaknesses, and Jordan's flaws.

He gains respect for Gatsby's fine character.

XI. ~~Who are the idealists and why are they so?~~

~~Gatsby explain why~~

How did the American Dream go wrong for Gatsby?