



The Great Gatsby Quote Journals
Ms. Diehl
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Spring 2016

Name: _____

Instructions: Societal issues that were present in the 1920s (Gatsby's days) are still present today. Below you will find a chart that will aid you in finding textual evidence from the novel that relates to these societal issues. I have started chapter 1 and chapter 2 for you. You will then be on the hunt to find quotes from each of the chapters that will express the particular societal issue (alcoholism, binge drinking, infidelity/divorce rates, The American Dream, materialism, and racism). After you have found the quote be sure to cite it and add commentary. Be sure to keep this quote journal as a running log of all quotes—this will be extremely helpful when we begin drafting the essay.

Due Date: These Quote Journals will be due after the completion of reading each chapter—I will have you detach each one to turn-in in class.

Ch. 1 –

Societal Issue: Racism

Quote 1: "The idea is if we don't look out the white race will be --- will be utterly submerged. It's all scientific stuff; it's been proved" (Fitzgerald 17).

Commentary/Analysis: From the very first chapter of the novel the reader is introduced to the concept of white supremacy—at least from Tom's perspective. Tom is hinting at the fact that the white race is the dominant race, and they have to keep it that way, because if other races gain control, they'll make a mess of things since they are naturally inferior. Fitzgerald has subtly allowed the reader to see that Tom is a racist and further, that he is a racist who believes he is an intellectual individual, when in fact, he is acting blatantly ignorant.

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis



Ch. 2-

Societal Issue: Society and Class

Quote 1: “I like your dress,” remarked Mrs. McKee, “I think it’s adorable.” Mrs. Wilson rejected the compliment by raising her eyebrow in disdain. “It’s just a crazy old thing,” she said. “I just slip it on sometimes when I don’t care what I look like” (Fitzgerald 32).

Commentary/Analysis – Fitzgerald is alluding to the fact that Myrtle’s persona drastically changes depending on her audience. Fitzgerald juxtaposes her character from when she is in the Valley of the Ashes with Wilson to her actions and mannerisms when she is at the apartment in the city. She states that her outfit is just an “crazy old thing” when in reality, the readers know that her outfit she is wearing at her party surely costs more than her entire closet in the Valley of the Ashes. Myrtle is thrilled to be in the city with Tom and living her “second life”—a life much better than reality. The Wilson’s social class is categorized as lower-middle class in the Valley of the Ashes whereas the lifestyle Mrs. Wilson leads when with Tom would pertain to an upper-class fashion of living. Society and class play a prominent role in the novel and the audience can see clearly that Myrtle’s character changes depending on her surroundings. Her characteristics suggest she is a snobby, upper-class woman with a nonchalant attitude, and it would be below her to accept such a compliment.

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis



Ch. 3-

Societal Issue: Alcoholism/Binge Drinking

Quote 1: "...In the main hall a bar with a real brass rail was set up, and stocked with gins and liquors and with cordials so long forgotten some of his guests were too young to know one from another" (Fitzgerald 44).

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis:



Ch. 4-
Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis



Ch. 5

Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis:



Ch. 6-
Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis



Ch. 7

Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis:



Ch. 8-
Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis



Ch. 9
Societal Issue:

Quote 1:

Commentary/Analysis –

Quote 2:

Commentary/Analysis:



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