

NAME: _____



Activity One

Time Reversal



Choose five key moments from *The Great Gatsby*. Examine how these events would play out differently had the story been set today. Each event should be described in as much detail as possible with a maximum length of 100 words each.

Be sure to answer questions such as:

- How would today's technology change the story?
- Would situations revolving around social status be the same?
- How would new law enforcement techniques make things difficult for those committing crimes?
- With prohibition no longer in effect, how might Gatsby have made his fortune?

Now, choose four important events in your own life that were influenced by today's technology. Re-examine those events and how they would be different had you been living in the 1920s. Choose one important news item or pop culture event influenced by today's technology and discuss how it would be different in the 1920s. Again, each event should be described in as much detail as possible and have a maximum length of 100 words each.

Take the results of your personal and pop culture or news events and discuss them as a class.

Being Social



1920's



Present

Taking a Picture



1920's



Present

NAME: _____



Activity Two

Prosperous 1920s



The Great Gatsby is set at the beginning of the 1920s—a time of great prosperity in the United States. Examine how events leading up to the 1920s paved the way for that prosperity. Also, examine how events at the end of the 1920s ultimately saw the end of that prosperity and ushered in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

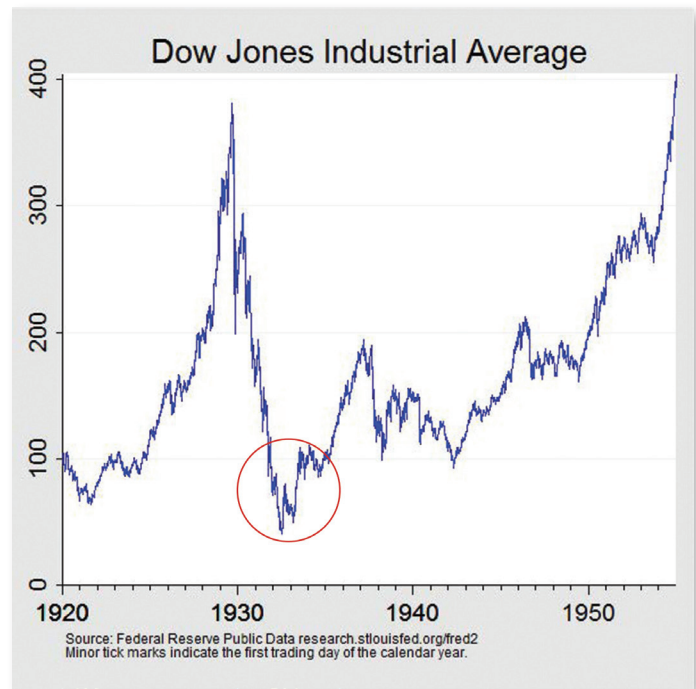
Be sure to examine the following factors and their influence on 1920s prosperity and on the Great Depression:

- industry
- agriculture
- populations
- mining
- technology
- wages
- the economy
- international factors

The finished product should be no less than 1,000 words and should comment on all of the factors listed above.



Advertisement - An example of consumerism.



Graph Depicting Stock Market Crash

NAME: _____



Activity Three



Book Review

Now that you've finished reading *The Great Gatsby*, it's time to comment on it. In at least 700 words, describe some aspects of the book you thought were positives and some you thought were negatives. Conclude whether you liked the book or not and describe how you did or didn't like the book.

Comment specifically on characters you liked or didn't like and why you feel the way you do. Describe one of your favorite or least favorite events depicted in the book, giving as much detail as possible, and discuss why you did or didn't like it.

The beginning of your review should provide a short description of the story, the middle should provide all your examinations of characters and events, and the end of your review should include your conclusions.

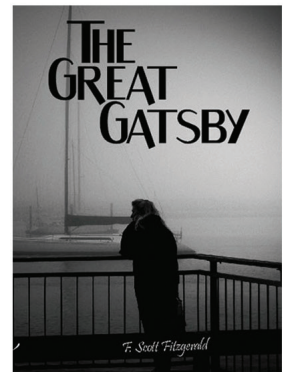
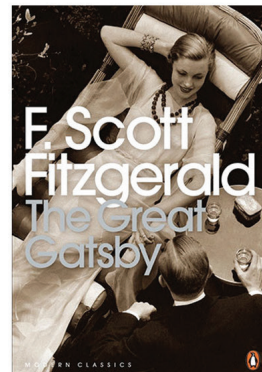
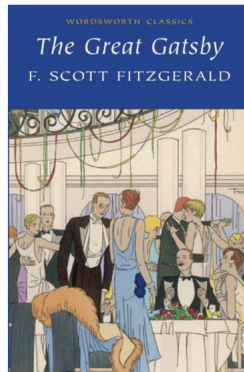
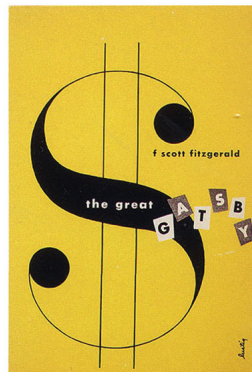
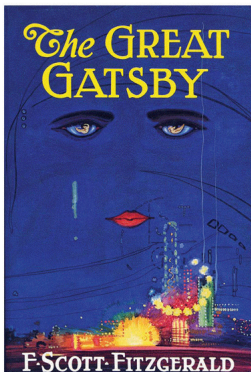
When finished, discuss these events as a class. Perhaps a negative for one person is a positive for another. As a group, chart each student's positive or negative events. If an event receives both a positive and negative review, put an asterisk beside it. Once all the events are plotted on the chart, discuss why they are where they are. Go back to any events that were asterisked and discuss in detail the contrasting opinions on the subject.



Scene from the 2013 film "The Great Gatsby"



Scene from the 2013 film "The Great Gatsby"





Activity Four

East VS. West

Throughout the novel, the narrator Nick Carraway comments on the idiosyncrasies of those who come from the East and those who come from the West. As Nick comments at the end of the novel, all of the story's major characters—Gatsby, Nick, Daisy, and Tom—are from the West. Examine Nick's comments on both the West and the East.

At the end of the book, Nick says: "I see now that this has been a story of the West... perhaps we all possessed some deficiency in common which made us subtly unadaptable to Eastern life."

And: "Even when the East excited me the most, even when I was most keenly aware of its superiority to the bored, sprawling, swollen towns beyond Ohio, with their interminable inquisitions which spared only the children and the very old—even then it had always for me a quality of distortion."

In at least 600 words, discuss any differences and similarities in Nick's comparisons between Easterners and Westerners.



1920's New York Skyscrapers



1920's Farm in the Midwest



Activity Five

Life of the Author

Examine the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald leading up to his writing of *The Great Gatsby*. How did



F. Scott Fitzgerald at age 15

his experiences shape the novel? In 500 words, describe Fitzgerald's childhood, adolescence, and transition into adulthood, commenting on how each experience is reflected in his later writings.



Young F. Scott Fitzgerald

In an additional 500 words, examine Fitzgerald's life post *Gatsby*. How does his life compare with the lives of the characters he wrote about in *The Great Gatsby*? Explain your reasoning.

Examine the characters in *The Great Gatsby* and discuss if any of those characters possess traits similar to the author, or with any other relevant people in Fitzgerald's life.

For example, *Gatsby's* love for Daisy might be comparable to Fitzgerald's love for his wife Zelda.



F. Scott Fitzgerald in uniform



Young F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda Fitzgerald



F. Scott Fitzgerald and his daughter "Scottie"



Activity Six

A Faked Death

Imagine Gatsby—devastated by Daisy’s reluctance to leave Tom and fears of his business dealings being uncovered—faked his own death, using George Wilson’s suicide as a cover. Gatsby, having left his glamorous life and possessions behind, must start over.

Take up Gatsby’s story immediately after his funeral and discuss the next two years of his life. Be sure to write the story as if you were Gatsby, using the same first-person narrative from the book. The finished product should be at least 1,500 words and should include plenty of detail and description.

Be sure to include the following:

- where does Gatsby go?
- what does he do for money?
- does he continue his criminal activities?
- at least one new character
- at least one additional returning character

Compare your theory with the class.

