

English 3

The Great Gatsby Unit Essay

100 Points; DUE FRIDAY, February 28, 2020 to Turnitin.com (by 11:59 pm)

Choose one of the following prompts.

1. Explore the connection between the American Dream and Gatsby's love for Daisy. At the end of the novel, Nick explains that Gatsby's hopes for the future were elusive: "...his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him..." (180). He compares Gatsby's dream with "that vast obscurity beyond the city," as well as Gatsby's obsession with the green light to our continuing to "run faster, stretch out our arms farther" towards the American Dream. **How does his dream and his obsession with the light compare to our dreams and obsessions as Americans in pursuit of the American Dream?**
2. Trace the use of color symbolism throughout the book. For instance, Fitzgerald uses "gold" and "yellow" often - what do these typically symbolize? You are encouraged to explore other uses of color as well (the green light, the gray of the Valley of Ashes, Gatsby's shirts in Ch. 5, etc.) **Why is it significant that Fitzgerald has included so many vivid colors?** Also consider the following: *"While green is the color of money due to its association with American paper currency [which fluctuates in value often], it's interesting to note that Daisy is associated with gold and silver, more stable, enduring forms of currency."*
3. Analyze the comparisons between Gatsby and J. Alfred Prufrock. **How is the poem depicting Prufrock's "Love Song" similar to Gatsby's "love song"?** Consider how Eliot and Fitzgerald each use language and diction to convey a message about love. Are both Gatsby and Prufrock seeking true love, or something else? What are they truly seeking?

ALL ESSAYS MUST INCLUDE:

- Clear thesis that addresses the prompt
- 4-5 quotes from the book (with page #)
- Analysis of quotes - WHY is each quote important to prove your thesis?
- Organized, multi-paragraph structure (3-4 body paragraphs)
- 750-1000 words (3 page minimum)
- MLA format - *don't forget last name and page number in upper right corner!!!!*