

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION PRE-READING 2023-2024

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Instructions: Read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and then write an essay addressing one of the prompts listed below by the day before our first class. This novel is available in most bookstores or online. You may even find a free PDF available online as well. Read closely and annotate. There is no length requirement for the essay; I'm looking for depth of thought and critical/analytical thinking. The point of an essay is to address the prompt entirely and concisely rather than reach a specific length.

If you have any questions, email me at aklakowicz@beaufort.k12.nc.us. I look forward to working with you all!

ESSAY PROMPT CHOICES

All students should use the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald as the literary work of choice for whichever prompt you select.

- Due prior to the first day of class
 - Submit as a Google Doc via email; my email is aklakowicz@beaufort.k12.nc.us
1. Write an essay analyzing the role of women in *The Great Gatsby*, as represented by Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. What kind of influence or power do they wield? Consider their social positions and interactions.
 2. Analyze the portrayal of wealth in the novel—the difference between “old money” and “new money” as well as the things that money can and cannot buy. What is Fitzgerald ultimately trying to say about money and materialism? What does Gatsby’s rise and fall say about the pursuit of wealth and status in the world of the novel?
 3. One of the main themes of the novel is how illusion is mistaken for reality. Illustrate how this is true in the various party scenes, in the empty gestures and speeches of the main characters, and in the basic fabric of Jay Gatsby’s life.
 4. A symbol in a novel is a concrete object that represents an idea or a set of ideas. Choose three major symbols in the book. Explain what those symbols mean and how they function together to support a central theme. (Hint: obviously in order to respond to this prompt, you will have to identify what theme is being supported.)