

***The Great Gatsby* Constructed Responses**

30 Points

Directions: For the following, write a constructed response in which you address the prompt. Be sure your responses 1) are as complete and focused as possible, 2) are well thought out and go beyond simply a list of the questions, and 3) **are supported with specific text from the novel**. You may also find it helpful to think past the questions I've given or think about them in a novel way.

- Below, you have a number of selections from the novel that at some point I probably told you were “my favorite” or that “summed up the whole story”. However, my understanding of the words and their impact on the characters/story might be different from your own. Now it's your turn to give me your favorite lines and explain their significance the way you understand them.

Chose one (1) of the selections from the list provided and explain why you believe these quotes are the most significant in the story of Gatsby.

You can take any/all of the following approaches when constructing your responses:

1. Argue the importance of the passage in the overall novel. How do these words “sum” up the story of Gatsby, Daisy, and the rest?
2. Argue the significance it has for or gives to the character referenced. How do the words explain the character, his/her motivations, dreams, or actions? What makes this character so significant in the story and what do these words say about the character?
3. Argue the quote's impact on the reader. What is Fitzgerald trying to accomplish with these words? What does he want to say to the reader? Want us to understand or “see” in his characters?

Understand that these are suggestions only. You are under no obligation to address these topics specifically, but you do need to argue the significance of the selections in some way. **BE SURE** you have a **specific, defensible argument** (thesis) and that you **use and explain specific support** from other parts of the novel, not just the quote you are discussing.

Selection Options

Some of the following quotes have been altered for clarity. You want to review the section from which they come to fully understand the words and context. The page numbers given might be incorrect, but they should be close.

1. "If personality is an unbroken series of successful gestures, then there was something gorgeous about [Gatsby], some heightened sensitivity to the promise of life....This responsiveness...was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again."
Page 2

2. "People were not invited [to Gatsby's parties]—they went there....Once there they...conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with an amusement park. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission."
Page 41

3. "She told me it was a girl, and so I turned my head away and wept. 'All right,' I said, 'I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool—that's a best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.'"
Page 16-17

4. "The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge is always the city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise of all the mystery and the beauty in the world....'Anything can happen now that we've slid over this bridge,' I thought; 'anything at all....' Even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder."
Page 69

5. "The idea staggered me. I remembered, of course, that the World's Series had been fixed in 1919, but if I had thought of it at all I would have thought of it as a thing that merely *happened*....It never occurred to me that one man could start to play with the faith of fifty million people—with the single-mindedness of a burglar blowing a safe."
Page 73

6. "Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that [green] light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one."
Page 93

7. "After all, in the very casualness of Gatsby's party there were romantic possibilities totally absent from [Daisy's] world."
Page 108

8. "[Gatsby] wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: 'I never loved you.' After she had obliterated four years with that sentence they could decide upon more practical measures to be taken. One of them was...to go back to Louisville and be married from her house—just as if it were five years ago."
Page 109

9. "'She's got an indiscreet voice,' I remarked. 'It's full of—' I hesitated. 'Her voice is full of money,' [Gatsby] said suddenly. That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full of money—that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals' song of it...High in a white palace the king's daughter, the golden girl...."
Page 120

10. “[George Wilson] had discovered that Myrtle had some sort of life apart from him in another world, and the shock made him physically sick. I stared at him and then at Tom....and it occurred to me that there was no difference between men, in intelligence or race, so profound as the difference between the sick and the well.”

Page 124

11. “She was the first nice girl he had ever known....It amazed him—he had never been in such a beautiful house before. But what gave it an air of breathless intensity was that Daisy lived there—it was as casual a thing to her as his tent out at camp was to him. There was a ripe mystery about it....”

Page 148-149

12. “I couldn’t forgive him or like him but I saw that what he had done was, to him, entirely justified. It was all very careless and confused. They were careless people, Tom and Daisy—they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made....”

Page 179

13. “And as the moon rose higher the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old islands here that flowered once for Dutch sailor’s eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world...[and] for one transitory enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent...face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder.”

Page 180

14. “Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eludes us then, but that no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms father....And one fine morning—.

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

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