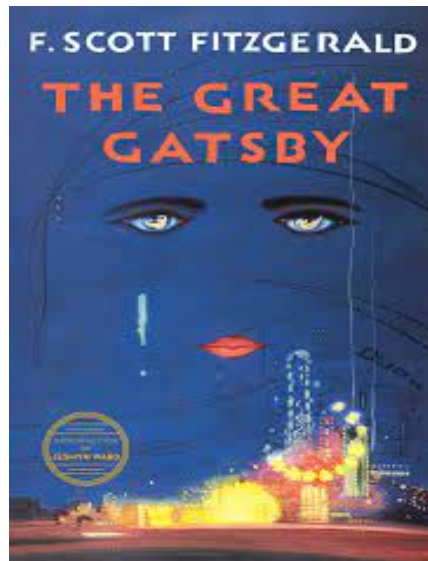


English III Honors  
Academy of the Holy Names  
Essential Questions and Annotation Guide for Summer Reading  
Summer 2022

**DISCLAIMER FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:**

Any student who initiates and confirms a schedule change between now and the first weeks of school is responsible for the completion of the subsequent summer assignment of their updated class choice.

*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald



**Text:** Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1995. (ISBN 0-684-80152-3)

**Assignment:** The expectation of summer reading is that you have finished reading the novel by the first day of school. The lessons and assessments that we do during the first three weeks will all be related to this text and there will *not* be class time given to complete the reading. The following guide provides key themes, figurative language, and literary devices, and essential questions that you should focus on throughout your reading.

As you read the novel you should annotate for the following, finding evidence for each (potentially to be used as textual evidence) *and* be able to explain the significance:

Themes	Symbols
The American Dream	Automobiles
Mutability of Identity	Gatsby's Mansion
Morality and Ethics	Eyes of T. J. Eckleberg
Society and Class	The Green Light
Love and Marriage	The Valley of Ashes
Death and Failure	East and West Eggs

### Essential Questions:

- To what extent does Gatsby's wealth, and all the luxuries that it provides, affect his ability to achieve what he desires? How do other characters' attitudes toward wealth affect what happens throughout the narrative? Can class status be changed?
- How does the historical context of when a text was written, or the historical setting of the narrative, affect current readers' interpretations? To what extent is Fitzgerald's message sustained or lost to present-day audiences?
- What is the American Dream and to what extent is it achievable for all Americans? In what ways does the American Dream mean different things for different Americans?
- Is the American Dream of individuality a destructive or empowering force, or a combination of both?
- Is the American Dream still a viable element today?
- As a teenager today, how are you affected by the American Dream? (Are you part of it, pressured by it, or redefining it?)

### Summer Reading Assessments (subject to change):

- Harkness discussion (formative)
- One Pager (formative)
- Essay (summative)