

Discussion Preparation

Question	Your answer	Evidence to support your claim
How do the last two chapters of the book help to finalize themes in the novel?	The last two chapters in the novel seem to highlight the immorality that has been shown throughout the novel, while still offering a bit of hope at the end. This seems to support the themes of the immorality of the upper class, as well as the hope that comes from those who dare to have a dream and pursue that dream.	<p>Immorality of the upper class-</p> <p>"You may fool me but you can't fool God"(159).</p> <p>"What I called up about was a pair of shoes I left there"(169).</p> <p>"I can't do it--I can't get mixed up in it"(171).</p> <p>"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"(179).</p> <p>Hope of the Dream:</p> <p>"He stretched out his hand desperately as if to. . .save a fragment of the spot that she had made lovely for him"(153).</p> <p>"They're a rotten crowd. . .you're worth the whole damn bunch put together"(154).</p> <p>"Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us"(180).</p> <p>"So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past"(180).</p>
What is the impact of Nick telling the story in flashback? What incidents or elements of the text appear to provide clues for future events?	Nick is telling the story in flashback which means that he has the complete story. He understands what will happen as he reveals the characters and their actions to the reader. His presentation of these characters is tainted by the events that have already unfolded. There are several times in the text where he describes a character or an event in a way that seems more important or grand than it should be at the time. If he were telling the story	<p>-"He smiled understandingly--much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced--or seemed to face--the whole external world for an instant, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you just so far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself and assured you that it had precisely the impression of</p>

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	<p>as it was happening, these events may seem mundane. Because he knows the impact they will have later, he describes them with much more intensity.</p>	<p>you that, at your best, you hoped to convey”(48).</p> <p>-”He had passed visibly through two states and was entering upon a third. After his embarrassment and his unreasoning joy he was consumed with wonder at her presence. He had been full of the idea so long, dreamed it right, through to the end, waited with his teeth set, so to speak, at an inconceivable pitch of intensity. Now, in the reaction, he was running down like an overwound clock”(91-2).</p> <p>-”Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. 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”(93).</p> <p>-”He told me all this very much later, but I’ve put it down here with the idea of exploding those first wild rumors about his antecedents, which weren’t even faintly true. Moreover he told it to me at a time of confusion, when I had reached the point of believing everything and nothing about him. So I take advantage of this short halt, while Gatsby, so to speak, caught his breath, to clear this set of misconceptions away”(101).</p> <p>-</p> <p>-”Her expression was curiously familiar--it was an expression I had often seen on women’s faces but on Myrtle Wilson’s face it seemed purposeless and inexplicable until I realized that her eyes, wide with jealous terror, were fixed not on Tom but on Jordan Baker, whom she took to be his wife”(124).</p>
<p>What is the tone of Chapter 8 and 9 of the text? How does Fitzgerald</p>	<p>The melancholy tone of the last two chapters of the book is developed through the use of imagery and</p>	<p>“Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many</p>

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<p>create tone and how does the tone interact with other literary elements?</p>	<p>symbolism within that imagery. In Chapter 8 Gatsby details he and Daisy's relationship. While this should create a romantic theme, the imagery used makes it seem sad and melancholic, because it is so apparent that Daisy is above him and always will be.</p> <p>Gatsby's pool is described in great detail and it becomes a symbol for the events in the book prior to this point and after this point, as well as a symbol of Gatsby and Daisy's relationship. The seasons are changing (pathetic fallacy) and getting colder, just as Gatsby and Daisy's relationship is getting colder and coming to an end. The leaves are falling into the pool, creating problems, just as reality is damaging Gatsby's dream of a future with Daisy.</p> <p>The weather again becomes symbolic of the emotions of the characters when it rains on the day of Gatsby's funeral. The dreary weather is mirroring the dreariness that Nick feels toward the lack of concern anyone has for Gatsby's passing. The weather combined with the very small funeral procession all contributes to the melancholy tone</p>	<p>clothes and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor"(150).</p> <p>"The track curved and now it was going away from the sun which, as it sank lower, seemed to spread itself in benediction over the vanishing city where she had drawn her breath. He stretched out his hand desperately as if to snatch only a wisp of air, to save a fragment of the spot that she had made lovely for him. But it was all going by too fast now for his blurred eyes and he knew that he had lost that part of it, the freshest and the best, forever"(153).</p> <p>"The night had made a sharp difference in the weather and there was an autumn flavor in the air. The gardener, the last one of Gatsby's former servants, came to the foot of the steps. 'I'm going to drain the pool today, Mr. Gatsby. Leaves'll start falling pretty soon and there's always trouble with the pipes"(153).</p> <p>"About five o'clock our procession of three cars reached the cemetery and stopped in a thick drizzle beside the gate--first a motor hearse, horribly black and wet, then Mr. Gatz and the minister and I in the limousine, and, a little later, four or five servants and the postman from West Egg in Gatsby's station wagon, all wet to the skin"(174).</p>
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	in the last two chapters.	
Select two quotations from the novel that are particularly fresh, engaging, or aesthetically pleasing? Examine Fitzgerald's word choice including figurative and connotative meanings. What is the resulting tone? What is the impact of the tone on the meaning and effect of the novel?	<p>Quote 1: "But his heart was in constant, turbulent riot. The most grotesque and fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed at night. A universe of ineffable gaudiness spun itself out in his brain while the clock ticked on the washstand and the moon soaked with wet light his tangled clothes upon the floor. Each night he added to the pattern of his fancies until drowsiness closed down upon some vivid scene with an oblivious embrace. For while these reveries provided an outlet for his imagination; they were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on fairy's wing."(99)</p> <p>Quote 2: "Thirty--the promise of a decade of loneliness, a thinning list of single men to know, a thinning briefcase of enthusiasm, thinning hair"(135).</p>	<p>Quote 1: In this passage, Fitzgerald is describing Gatsby as a young boy and trying to convey how unsettled and ill at ease he was in his early years. The tone of this passage is that of restlessness and is created through Fitzgerald's imagery and word choice. He uses words like "turbulent," "riot," "spun." He also creates a scene with a clock ticking and clothes flung about giving a visual reminder that the inhabitant, young Gatsby, is restless. Fitzgerald also uses a metaphor of a "rock of the world" and "fairy's wings" to highlight the tenuousness of Gatsby's situation. Nothing about his life as described in this scene feels permanent.</p> <p>Quote 2: This passage, though short, is able to convey a clear tone of melancholy. Nick has just "remembered" that he is turning thirty on that day. His description of what his thirties have to offer is filled with the repetition of the word "thinning" to reflect his own thinning life as he gets older. The use of this word suggests that as he gets older his life will get "less" rather than "more." He also juxtaposes the word "promise" with many other phrases that seem hopeless--"thinning hair" "thinning briefcase" "thinning list of single men." The contrast here between the word "promise" and the negative vision Nick has for the future reflects the melancholy tone of this passage and this section of the book.</p>
Using your character chart, choose at least two characters. Consider each character and how he/she is introduced and developed, and his or her impact on meaning and	<p>**Student answers will vary dependent upon character choice</p> <p>Myrtle Wilson is a character who is introduced in a setting filled with the immorality that we come to</p>	<p>**Student answers will vary dependent upon character choice</p> <p>- "The telephone rang inside, startlingly, and as Daisy shook her head decisively at Tom the subject of the stables, in fact of all subjects, vanished into air. . . but I doubt if even Miss Baker who</p>

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themes of the novel.	recognize as normal amongst the upper (and some) lower class in this novel. She is actually introduced in Chapter 1 through a suspicious phone call to Tom. This introduction connects with her role in the book which is "Tom's girl." She is the physical example of Tom's infidelity. In Chapter 2 we see Myrtle and Tom interact with each other and it is also obvious that Myrtle is being created as a character who is not within the class that Tom and even Nick exist. She is also introduced in ways that create her as a foil for Daisy. She is thick where Daisy is slim; she wears tight clothes, where Daisy wears loose clothes; she is punched for aggravated Tom, where Daisy is only admonished verbally. As her character arc ends in Chapter 7 with a brutal death scene, she is also proven to be expendable, just another casualty of the carelessness of the upper class.	seemed to have mastered a certain hardy skepticism was able utterly to put this fifth guest's shrill metallic urgency out of mind"(15). -"I want you to meet my girl"(24). -"The thickish figure of a woman blocked out the light from the office door. She was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her surplus flesh sensuously as some women can"(25). -"She had changed her dress to a brown figured muslin which stretched tight over her rather wide hips"(30). -"Making a short deft movement Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand"(37) "When they had torn open her shirtwaist still damp with perspiration they saw that her left breast was swinging loose like a flap and there was no need to listen for the heart beneath. The mouth was wide open and ripped at the corners as though she had choked a little in giving up the tremendous vitality she had stored so long"(137).
Based on the tone of the novel and the language used to describe the various characters, how does Fitzgerald seem to feel about the lifestyles he portrays in the novel?	Fitzgerald seems to feel that the characters in this novel are selfish and shallow and immoral. Chapter after chapter portrays most of the characters making horrible decisions that hurt others with little or no concern. They all seem reckless and directionless.	"I've been everywhere and seen everything and done everything"(17). "In that moment she looked at me with an absolute smirk on her lovely face as if she had asserted her membership in a rather distinguished secret society to which she and Tom belonged"(17). "I want you to meet my girl"(34). "Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand"(37). "Well, if you're a poor driver you oughtn't to try driving at night"(54)

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		<p>"She was incurably dishonest"(57)</p> <p>"He's the man who fixed the World's Series back in 1919"(73)</p> <p>"Don't bring Tom"(83).</p> <p>"He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: 'I never loved you'"(109).</p> <p>"She had told him that she loved him and Tom Buchanan saw"(119).</p> <p>"I did love him once--but I loved you too"(132).</p> <p>"The 'death car' as the newspapers called it, didn't stop"(137).</p> <p>"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"(179).</p>
<p>Choose one main event from the novel. Describe how Fitzgerald's choices (language, imagery, symbolism, tone, point of view, etc.) contribute to the impact and meaning of that event and how that even adds to the development of a theme.</p>	<p>In Myrtle's death scene in Chapter 7, Fitzgerald uses gruesome imagery to highlight the brutality of her death, therefore vilifying Daisy even more in the eyes of the reader.</p> <p>He uses a character who is outside of the plot of the novel to witness the death, developing the theme of the immorality and recklessness amongst the upper class.</p> <p>The symbolism of her injuries (to mouth and breast) seem to reflect Myrtle's role in the novel as a sensual plaything for Tom. Her injuries to her breast are described in a way that desexualizes her. Her injury to her mouth signals that she is silent</p>	<p>"Myrtle Wilson, her life violently extinguished"(137).</p> <p>"When they had torn open her shirtwaist still damp with perspiration they saw that her left breast was swinging loose like a flap and there was no need to listen for the heart beneath. The mouth was wide open and ripped at the corners as though she had choked a little in giving up the tremendous vitality she had stored so long"(137).</p>

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