



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

Summer Bridging Work - The Great Gatsby and Poetry

The Great Gatsby - Summary Task

After reading each chapter, complete the tasks in the table below. Use the prompt questions to guide your summary, ensuring that you include information about key characters and events. You may also wish to highlight the themes which are explored within the chapter for future reference.

| Chapter | Summary |
|--|---------|
| <p><u>Chapter 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarise the information given by the novel's narrator, Nick Carraway, about his own life, character and his views on the eponymous character, Jay Gatsby.• Where is the novel set and what are your first impressions of the setting?• Which key characters are introduced in the first chapter and what are your first impressions of them? <p>Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.</p> | |

Chapter 2

- A new setting is introduced in this chapter. What is this new setting called? How would you describe it? Who lives there?
- Summarise the information given about the two new key characters that are introduced.
- What do we discover about Daisy and Tom Buchanan's marriage?
- In this chapter, Jay Gatsby's lifestyle and background is speculated upon but we still haven't been introduced to him. Comment on this structural choice.

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 3

- Which rumours are shared about Gatsby? How would you describe the rumours?
- Describe the nature of the parties thrown by Gatsby.
- What are your first impressions of Gatsby?
- Summarise key moments in this chapter.

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 4

- Summarise Gatsby's description of his key life events. How does Nick Carraway respond to these stories? As a reader, how are we meant to respond to these stories?
- How do people around Gatsby respond to him? Why do they behave this way?
- What does Nick find out from Jordan Baker about Gatsby's background? How does this impact the narrative?

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 5

- How has Gatsby's character changed or developed during this chapter?
- How does Daisy respond to Gatsby's display of wealth in this chapter?
- How would you describe the relationship between Daisy and Gatsby at this point?
- Which external factors have influenced the way that Daisy and Gatsby feel about each other?

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 6

- What is the true story of Gatsby's background? How does this impact the narrative?
- Describe the interaction between Tom Buchanan and Gatsby at Gatsby's house.
- How has the relationship between Gatsby and Daisy changed? Why might Daisy feel differently towards Gatsby now?

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 7

- Describe the shift in atmosphere at this point in the novel.
- Outline the key events that happen during the day spent in New York.
- Describe the power dynamic between Tom, Gatsby and Daisy. How does this change and develop during the course of the day? Why do you think this is?
- How does the day in New York end?
- Outline significant moments for each of the key characters.

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 8

- Summarise the story told by Gatsby about his history with Daisy.
- How does this story affect the reader's view of Daisy?
- Describe the other significant events that happen in this chapter.

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

Chapter 9

- Comment on the significance of the time shift in this chapter.
- Describe the tone of this chapter.
- Summarise what happens to each of the key characters in this chapter.
- Outline the final message shared by Nick Carraway in the denouement of the novel.

Themes: love, marriage, gender, greed, power, equality, the American dream, class, justice.

The Great Gatsby - Biography Task

After reading the novel for the first time, read this short biography of F.Scott Fitzgerald and answer the questions that follow.

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born in 1896 in Minnesota, USA, to a family of some social standing, although with little money. It seems likely that much of Fitzgerald's interest in society life began in his youth in Minnesota when he would play and associate with the rich children of the neighbourhood — dancing, sailing, swimming, sledding — all the while knowing he was never entirely a part of their society. Fitzgerald's father was unsuccessful in business, and the family spent much of his youth living off the generosity of their wealthy relatives, the McQuillans. The McQuillans ensured Fitzgerald received a good education and paid for his attendance at Princeton University in 1913. However, he did not graduate and instead joined the army in 1917.

In 1918, while assigned to Camp Sheridan, near Montgomery, Alabama, Fitzgerald met and fell in love with the then 18-year-old debutante Zelda Sayre. She came from a wealthy family and refused marriage until he was able to support her financially. Consequently, Fitzgerald moved to New York and took up work in an advertising agency. He had been writing throughout his youth, and his first novel, "This Side of Paradise," was published in 1920. Fitzgerald and Zelda married and became synonymous with life in the 1920s: drinking, dancing, and extravagant living. They travelled extensively in the USA and Europe, and in 1921 Zelda gave birth to the couple's only child, a daughter named Frances.

The couple's drinking habits became excessive and took a toll on Fitzgerald's writing. Their marriage was also plagued with financial difficulties, and Fitzgerald had to write many short stories for publication in magazines to fund their lifestyle. Zelda began experiencing mental illness in the 1920s and had to be institutionalised in 1930. She resided in different institutions until her death in 1948. Although he remained married to Zelda until the end, her mental illness redefined their marriage. Fitzgerald could not provide the support she needed at home and worked hard to keep her comfortably in the institutions. He eventually met and fell in love with Sheilah Graham, a movie columnist, with whom he spent the last few years of his life.

Fitzgerald's third novel, "The Great Gatsby," was first published in 1925 to limited success. He continued to write novels, short stories, and screenplays until his death in 1940. By then, he had slipped into relative obscurity; his personal life was chaotic, and his literary reputation fragile. Despite having once been the golden boy of the Jazz Age, many of his obituaries upon his death were condescending, capitalising on his personal hardships. However, after World War II, interest in his work began to grow. By the 1960s, he had risen to secure a place among the great twentieth-century American authors. Since then, interest in Fitzgerald has remained consistently strong. Together with Zelda, his personal life has become a part of the American landscape, forever linked with the youthful exuberance of the 1920s. Professionally, his works provide a valuable voice for exploring themes of ambition, justice, equity, and the American dream — themes that are still relevant today — affording him a well-deserved place in the American literary canon.

1. How might Fitzgerald's childhood experiences with the rich children in his neighbourhood influence his criticisms of class and social hierarchy in his depiction of wealth in *The Great Gatsby*?
2. Considering Fitzgerald's financial difficulties and reliance on writing to fund his lifestyle, how could this shape his perspectives on the American dream and its attainability?
3. How might Fitzgerald's experiences of financial hardships within his marriage to Zelda have influenced the depiction of romantic relationships within the novel?
4. Given the decline of Fitzgerald's literary reputation and the condescending obituaries upon his death, how might his personal hardships and challenges with societal expectations have influenced his depiction of the American dream and success? Can you make any links to Jay Gatsby?

Love Poetry - Unseen Poetry Analysis Task

In exam conditions, respond to the question below. You should spend no longer than 30 minutes reading and annotating the poem and responding to the question that follows.

Remember

By Christina Rossetti

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

In 'Remember', how does Rossetti present the speaker's feelings about love?