Name:

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American Studies

Date:

*The Great Gatsby* Chapter 1 Analysis

**Background:** F. Scott Fitzgerald’s use of figurative language rivals that of the greatest American authors, from Hawthorne to Faulkner. Follow the directions to analyze Chapter 1 of Fitzgerald’s magnum opus (greatest work).

Characterization: Fitzgerald characterizes his creations through their words and actions. Remember that Nick Carraway is an unreliable narrator, and the reader must draw individual conclusions about each character.

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| Nick thinks that **Daisy** is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and/but I think that she is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Find 1 DQ to support your opinion. |
| Nick thinks that **Tom** is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and/but I think that he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Find 1 DQ to support your opinion. |
| Nick thinks that **Jordan** is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and/but I think that she is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Find 1 DQ to support your opinion. |
| I think that Gatsby is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Find 1 DQ to support this assertion. |

Motifs: Please find evidence (not DQs) that reveal each of the following motifs.

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| Cynicism |  |
| Hypocrisy |  |
| Superficiality |  |

**Take a deep breath and** analyze the following description of the Buchanan house:

The windows were ajar and gleaming white against the fresh grass outside that seemed to grow a little way into the house. A breeze blew through the room, blew curtains in at one end and out the other like pale flags, twisting them up toward the frosted wedding-cake of the ceiling, and then rippled over the wine-colored rug, making a shadow on it as wind does on the sea (8).

How does this description make you **feel?** Why do you think that Fitzgerald uses language like this?