

**LHS IB English III**  
**2015 Summer Reading Assignment**  
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Welcome to IB English III! Below you will find your summer reading requirement and the assignments that accompany the texts. I encourage you to purchase your own texts. If you have your own copies, you will be able to make notes and highlight as you read, and then be well-prepared for discussion. Moreover, should you study these texts again in college, your own annotated and highlighted copies will be invaluable. However, if you are unable to purchase this novel, please see me, Mrs. Almén, in room 2206 before the end of May.

**Texts:** *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

**Assignment Guidelines:**

1. Read *The Great Gatsby* over the summer. Please do not procrastinate! Allow time to read and annotate the novel carefully. (Annotating means to mark the page as you read with comments, questions, and/or notes.) **You are not required to complete the attached reading guide, but it is strongly recommended that you at least consider the questions while reading to guide your reflection, interpretation, and analysis.**
2. Complete a color imagery journal for *The Great Gatsby*. Each time you encounter imagery that uses any reference to color, write the quote and then describe the associations you have with that image. Use the template provided in this packet to get started. You will need to create additional pages to cover the entire novel.
3. Write down and then define any vocabulary words in the text that are unfamiliar to you. There is no minimum or maximum. The point is simply to expand and improve your vocabulary, which will be immensely helpful to you in IB English III.
4. Read selected chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (see specific chapter assignments on the study guide). Again, please do not procrastinate! Allow time to read, reflect, and respond accordingly.
5. Complete the study guide for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Please provide thorough responses written in complete sentences (unless otherwise noted).

*Please note: There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism, which includes copying from another student. This does not mean that you cannot have quality discussions about the novel with other students; it simply means that the written work you produce must ultimately contain your original ideas which may or may not have developed as a result of academic dialogue with others.*

**Expectations:**

You are expected to have read and completed the activities for *The Great Gatsby* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by the first class meeting of the school year. Bring the texts with you on the first day of school, and be prepared for an exam and/or project for a major grade within the first few weeks of school. I am not interested in what *Cliff's Notes*, *Spark Notes* or *Monarch* books have to say about these texts. **Your ideas are as valid as anyone's** and, as a result, I want to read your thoughts and insights. If you have any questions as you complete the summer assignment, feel free to email me at [sarah.almen@leanderisd.org](mailto:sarah.almen@leanderisd.org). Please allow a few days for me to respond as I will not always have email access over the summer and I will also be on maternity leave. In addition, you are welcome to stop by my room (2206) any time before the end of May to introduce yourself and ask any questions you might have about the novel or the summer reading assignment. I'm looking forward to meeting you!

Other contact information:

LHS IB Coordinator- Julie Cooper - [julie.cooper@leanderisd.org](mailto:julie.cooper@leanderisd.org)

Secondary ELA Coordinator- Jennifer Abramson - [jennifer.abramson@leanderisd.org](mailto:jennifer.abramson@leanderisd.org)

## ***The Great Gatsby*** **Reading Guide**

**You are not required to complete this reading guide, but it is strongly recommended that you at least *consider* these questions while reading to guide your reflection, interpretation, and analysis.**

### **Chapter 1**

1. Why does the narrator feel many people are drawn to him?
2. How does the narrator characterize Gatsby? What is the duality of this characterization?
3. In what way might the narrator's return from the Great War characterize his disillusionment?
4. What allows the narrator to travel to the east?
5. What phrases does the narrator use to characterize the settings of East and West Egg?
6. How does the narrator characterize Tom Buchanan? What is his physical description? Why does this matter?
7. What images does the narrator use to describe the Buchanan's house and why?
8. How does the narrator describe Daisy? What does his initial reaction to Daisy and Jordan Baker say about him?
9. How does Nick describe Jordan Baker?
10. What does Daisy's reaction to learning her baby is a girl say about her and her current situation?
11. How does Nick's assessment of Tom and Daisy's behavior (25) contradict the opening paragraph of the novel?

### **Chapter 2**

1. What images does Nick use to describe the valley of ashes?
2. What might the diminished billboard of T.J. Eckleburg symbolize?
3. How does Nick characterize George Wilson? How does this image compare/contrast with that of Tom?
4. How does Nick characterize Mrs. Wilson? How does this compare/contrast with that of Daisy?
5. What images does Nick use to describe Tom and Myrtle's apartment? Why are they significant?
6. Why is it significant that Nick admits he is drunk?
7. Nick waits until Mr. McKee has fallen asleep to wipe off the shaving cream that has bothered him all night? Why does he do this and what does this say about his character?

### **Chapter 3**

1. What similes, metaphors, figurative language does Nick use to describe Gatsby's parties?
2. Why is it important to the development of Gatsby's character that Nick meets up with Jordan Baker at the party?
3. What details does Nick use to describe Gatsby and what initial impression do the details of this description make on the reader? How does this impression change?
4. What do you notice about the organization of the writing and how/why is it significant?

5. How does Nick's description of his own life compare to Gatsby's parties?
6. What does Nick's preoccupation with the lives of strangers indicate about his character?
7. What are some examples of Jordan Baker's dishonesty and why are they significant?
8. Why does Jordan Baker say she likes Nick? Why do you think Nick likes her?
9. What is the one cardinal virtue Nick feels he possesses? Why is this believable?

#### **Chapter 4**

1. What is most notable about the list of "leeches" from Gatsby's parties?
2. How does Nick use Gatsby to illustrate the American characterization of movement?
3. What is Nick's impression of Gatsby before the car ride? Why does he feel this way?
4. How does Nick's opinion of Gatsby change after Gatsby's tales? How much does Nick believe?
5. Describe the irony of both the funeral scene and the limo chauffeured by a white man. What theme do these scenes help to illustrate? (Write the theme as a single, complete sentence.)
6. What does another break in paragraphs indicate? Why does Nick do this?
7. Why does Gatsby disappear while Nick talks to Tom?
8. What is Gatsby's request of Nick? What implications does this have for Nick?

#### **Chapter 5**

1. Why does Nick think Gatsby is offering him business?
2. What is the "gonnegtion" Gatsby fears Nick might be shying away from?
3. When Daisy arrives at tea, what images does Nick use to describe her voice and her appearance? Why?
4. Describe how Gatsby's demeanor has changed when he knocks on Nick's door. How does it change again when Nick joins them in the living room? What is the significance of these changes?
5. While Nick is alone in the yard, he addresses the history of Gatsby's house. What theme does this help Fitzgerald illuminate? (Write the theme in a complete sentence.)
6. What does Gatsby and Nick's conversation about how Gatsby made the money to buy his house signal to the reader?
7. Why is it so important to Gatsby that Daisy see/like his house?
8. What does Gatsby's bedroom indicate about his personality?
9. What are the three different "states" Nick notices Gatsby passing through after reuniting with Daisy?
10. Daisy cries over the shirts. What could be the real cause for such intense emotion?
11. What is the effect of the break in paragraphs between Daisy's crying and the resuming of the tour?
12. What did the green light symbolize to Gatsby? What does Nick think it represents now?
13. What is the purpose of the song lyrics on page 101?
14. Why is Nick convinced that Daisy must have fallen short of his dreams?
15. What image does Nick use to describe Daisy's voice as she murmurs something to Gatsby? How is this different from Nick's previous characterization of her voice and what is its significance?

## Chapter 6

1. How does the arrival of the reporter at Gatsby's house asking for comment help to further characterize Gatsby?
2. What is different about the narration at the beginning of the chapter than the rest of the novel?
3. When Nick re-enters the narration, what is his purpose?
4. How do Tom and his friends react to Gatsby? Why is this ironic?
5. Why does Nick have to adjust his perception of West Egg and how does he now see it? What is the significance of this change?
6. Nick, again, gives a graphic description of Daisy's voice. What seems to motivate him to do so?
7. What is it that Gatsby wants from Daisy?
8. Describe the flashback at the end of the chapter relating to Gatsby and Daisy's starting point? Why is this flashback significant?
9. Why is it important that Nick allows Gatsby the opportunity to tell much of his own story in this chapter?

## Chapter 7

1. Research Trimalchio. What is the significance of this allusion?
2. What is the purpose behind the elaborate detailed description of the heat? Which images in particular help to accomplish this task?
3. Why is Gatsby "fascinated" as he looks around the Buchanan house?
4. Nick continually characterizes Daisy through the description of her voice. What contribution does Gatsby make that aids in Nick's further realization of Daisy's character?
5. How might Tom's allusion to drugstores selling liquor affect Daisy?
6. What does Daisy's insistence that Tom drive Nick and Jordan while she rides with Gatsby indicate about her state of mind?
7. What contrasts does Nick draw between Wilson and Tom though they are both in such a seemingly similar position?
8. Why is Tom in such a panic? Why might this be new to him?
9. How does the wedding taking place in the ballroom affect the scene upstairs?
10. What is so ironic about Tom's argument with Gatsby and Daisy?
11. Tom finally reveals the ways Gatsby earns all of his money. How does this revelation affect Daisy?
12. Why is the date significant to Nick? How and why does he describe the occasion?
13. Compare and contrast the way in which George Wilson and Tom Buchanan handle their wives' attempt to leave them.
14. How is Tom affected by Myrtle Wilson's death?
15. How does Tom react to Daisy when he arrives home? Why?

## Chapter 8

1. Why does Nick suggest Gatsby go away?
2. Why does Gatsby choose now to tell Nick his life's story? Why has Nick already told the audience most of this rather than waiting to relay the story when it chronologically occurs?
3. What is Gatsby's perception of Daisy's family home?
4. Characterize Gatsby and Daisy's initial relationship.
5. As the narration shifts from the flashback of Gatsby's relationship with Daisy, Nick describes the morning. What are some of the significant images found in the description and why does Fitzgerald include this description?

6. How does Nick describe Gatsby after Nick gives him the first and only compliment? Does Nick mean what he says to Gatsby? How do you know?
7. Nick relays second-hand information about what happens after they left Wilson's garage. Is this information accurate? Why or why not?
8. What is the significance of Wilson staring into the eyes of TJ Eckleburg when he admonishes his wife's behavior?
9. How does Nick imagine Gatsby feels when no phone call from Daisy comes? What specific images does Nick use to describe these feelings and why did Fitzgerald choose them?
10. Of the images Nick uses to describe the pool when he arrives at Gatsby's house, which are most notable and why?

### **Chapter 9**

1. Why is Nick the authority on Gatsby?
2. Meyer Wolfsheim won't come to Gatsby's. Why is it so important to Nick that he comes?
3. What does Nick say is his middle-west? What nightmarish images does he use to describe the east?
4. How does Nick react to Tom when he sees him again? Why does Nick call Tom careless then?
5. To what does Nick finally compare Gatsby's green light? What is the thematic significance?
6. What metaphor does Nick create in the last line of the novel? What connotative images does this evoke?



## **Study Guide: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**

Please answer the following questions thoroughly using complete sentences and/or paragraphs (unless otherwise noted).

### **Chapter 1 pp.1-6 “Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It’s Not)”**

1. What are the five characteristics of the quest?
2. Choose a book you have read or a movie you have seen that contains a quest and identify the characteristics and explain. Use Foster’s explanation of the setup in *The Crying of Lot 49* on pages 4 & 5 as your guide. Your example and explanation should be as detailed and clear as his.

### **Chapter 2 pp. 7-14 “Nice to Eat With You: Acts of Communion”**

3. Complete this sentence about communion “... breaking bread together is an act \_\_\_\_\_”
4. Why does Foster assert that a meal scene in literature is almost always symbolic?
5. List the things, according to Foster, that eating in literature can represent.
6. Think of an example of a positive “communion” scene in a book you have read or a movie you have seen. Describe the scene and explain its symbolic meaning. Think of an example of a negative “communion” scene in a book you have read or a movie you have seen. Describe the scene and explain its symbolic meaning.

### **Chapter 3 pp.15-21 “Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires”**

7. What are the essentials of the vampire story?
8. What are some things besides vampirism that vampires and ghosts represent in literature?

### **Chapter 5 pp. 28-36 “Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?”**

9. What is the “big secret” Foster reveals in this chapter?
10. How does recognition of these allusions in literature change the reading experience for a reader?
11. What is “intertextuality”?
12. How does Foster say a literature professor can help a beginning reader?

### **Chapter 10 pp. 74-81 “It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow”**

13. Foster says “weather is never just weather”. What are some things rain can represent in literature?
14. What does a rainbow represent in literature?
15. What does fog represent in literature?
16. What does snow represent in literature?

### **Chapter 11 pp. 87-96 “...More Than It’s Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence”**

17. What are the implications of violence in literature?
18. What are the two categories of violence in literature? Describe and define each.
19. What are the four reasons that authors kill off characters in literature?
20. What questions should readers ask themselves when they encounter an act of violence or a death in a piece of literature?
21. Choose an act of violence or a death from a piece of literature you have read and using the information in this chapter, identify its literary purpose. Be sure to include specific details to make your answer clear and complete.

### **Chapter 12 pp. 97-107 “Is That a Symbol?”**

22. What is the difference between symbolism and allegory?
23. What are the tools we must use to figure out what a symbol might mean?
24. Why is symbolic meaning different for each individual reader? What are some of the factors that influence what we understand in our reading?

25. Symbols in literature can be both objects and \_\_\_\_\_ (p. 105)

26. What are the questions readers should ask of the text when trying to determine symbolic meaning?

**Chapter 13 pp. 108-116 “It’s All Political”**

27. Foster asserts that, “Nearly all writing is \_\_\_\_\_” (p. 111)

28. On page 115 Foster explains why most literature can be called “political.” Summarize his argument.

**Chapter 18 pp. 152-162 “If She Comes Up, It’s Baptism”**

29. What are some of the things that baptism (or immersion in water) can mean in literature?

30. What are some of the things that drowning can mean in literature?

**Chapter 19 pp. 163-174 “Geography Matters…”**

31. What are some of the roles geography plays in literature and what are some of the effects of geography on literature?

32. What does it mean when an author sends a character south?

33. How can a writer’s personal geography inform his/her work?

**Chapter 20 pp. 175-184 “...So Does Season”**

34. What are the symbolic meanings of the seasons?

35. Choose a piece of literature you have read in which season is important or symbolic. Give title and author and briefly describe and explain the symbolic season.

**Chapter 21 pp. 193-200 “Marked For Greatness”**

36. For what reason(s), do authors give characters deformities, scars or other physical markings in literature?

37. Choose a book you have read recently and identify a main character who has some physical marking. Describe and explain why you think the author chose to give him/her that physical trait- what does it mean?

**Chapter 22 pp. 201-206 “He’s Blind for a Reason, You Know”**

38. For what reason(s) do authors choose to make characters blind in literature?

**Chapter 25 pp. 226-234 “Don’t Read With Your Eyes”**

39. Explain what Foster means by “don’t read with your eyes”

40. About what does Foster warn readers?

**Chapter 26 pp. 235-244 “Is He Serious? And Other Ironies”**

41. Explain what Foster means by “irony trumps everything”

42. Foster defines irony on p. 240 like this: “What irony chiefly involves, then, is \_\_\_\_\_” Explain what he means by this.

43. There are three types of irony in literature:

- Verbal irony (character says opposite of what is expected)
- Situational irony/Structural irony (situation or event plays out in an opposite or abnormal way- not like expected)
- Dramatic irony (audience/reader knows more than characters know)

Identify one example of each type of irony that Foster has presented in this chapter or earlier in the book and write it out.

**Chapter 27 pp. 245-277 “A Test Case”**

44. Complete the task that Foster sets out for you on pp. 265 & 266. Be prepared to participate in a class discussion about it.