

Name:

11 AP –*The Great Gatsby* Journal Assignment

### Overview

A dialectical journal is a form of note-taking that allows you to “dialogue” with the text. As an active reader, you’ll be responsible for making connections, analyzing, evaluating, and reflecting on the story being told. The journal serves as a record of an ongoing and evolving conversation between you and the text. Record your notes (in the form of quotes) on the left-hand side and then comment on the quotes on the right-hand side. A digital copy of this assignment is posted to the class BlackBoard site. Your journal will be graded on depth of thought and analysis.

Quotation and Page number/s	Response
<b>Sentence, line, phrase, or paraphrase that...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jumps out at you as significant, moving, striking, etc.</li></ul>	<b>Explanation of why you chose the quotation/passage:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Connect</u>: to personal experiences, historical events, current events</li><li><u>Analyze</u>: How does Fitzgerald’s use of words, dialogue, details, images, conflict, etc. contribute to the development of the story?</li><li><u>Evaluate</u>: How does the quote successfully contribute to Fitzgerald’s overall themes and statement in the work?</li><li></li><li><u>Reflect</u>: What does the quote say about our culture and history?</li></ol>

### Sample (from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*)

Quotation and Page #	Response
“I was born in Tuckahoe, near Hillsborough...I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the large part of slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves ignorant” (1).	Douglas begins his narrative with a simple, factual recollection of his birth that is effective due to its blunt presentation. The fact that Douglas has “no accurate knowledge of [his] age” speaks for itself; even the basic biographical data that should be open to any human being is withheld to him due to the circumstances into which he was born. He compliments the dehumanizing effect of not knowing when he was born with a simile, comparing the ignorance forced upon slaves to that of “horses,” and also provides an explanation for why he and other slaves do not know their age: the wishes of “their masters.” In the very first sentence of his autobiography, Douglas establishes the basic crux of his argument: slavery strips an individual of his or her humanity.

### Requirements

You must use the six quote entries listed below as part of your journal. Each of the six quote entries has a set of questions to provoke thought. Some of the given quote entries draw from quotes on different pages that go together. You can use the questions to help develop your reaction in the right hand side, or you can react on your own. Do not feel obligated to answer all of the questions underneath the given quotes; use them as a guide. In addition to the six mandatory quotes, you are choosing four of your own quotes.

Quotation and Page #	Response
189 BOOK - Page 98, 101 180 BOOK – Page 92, 95 “Daisy put her arm through his abruptly, but he	What is Nick saying about the green light? Does its meaning change for Gatsby? Why is the word “possibly” significant?

<p>seemed absorbed in what he had just said. 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.”</p> <p>“As I went over to say good-by I saw that the expression of bewilderment had come back into Gatsby’s face, as though a faint doubt had occurred to him as to the quality of his present happiness. Almost five years! There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams – not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything. He had thrown himself into it with a creative passion, adding to it all the time, decking it out with every bright feather that drifted away. No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart.”</p>	<p>What is significant about the closeness of a star to the moon? Does Daisy tumble “short of his dreams?” What does the last line mean?</p>
<p>189 BOOK - Pages 116-117 180 BOOK – Pages 110-111 “He talked a lot about the past, and I gathered that he wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy. His life had been confused and disordered since then, but if he could once return to a certain starting place and go over it all slowly, he could find what that thing was... One autumn night, five years before, they had been walking down the street when the leaves were falling, and they came to a place where there were no trees and the sidewalk was white with moonlight. They stopped here and turned toward each other. Now it was a cool night with that mysterious excitement in it which comes at the two changes of the year. The quiet lights in the houses were humming out into the darkness and there was a stir and bustle among the stars. Out of the corner of his eye Gatsby saw the blocks of the sidewalks really formed a ladder and mounted to a secret place above the trees – he could climb to it, if he climbed alone, and once there he could suck on the pap of life, gulp down the incomparable milk of wonder. His heart beat faster as Daisy’s white face came up to his own. He knew that when he kissed this girl, and forever wed his unutterable visions to</p>	<p>How does Gatsby’s attitude about the “past” and his desires for a wedding with Daisy impact the audience’s impression of him? How does the paragraph that begins “He talked a lot about...” add another dimension to Gatsby’s love for Daisy? How does the description of the last kiss impact the reader and why is it necessary after the debacle of the party? Discuss “unutterable visions” “perishable breath” “blossomed” “incarnation.”</p>

<p>her perishable breath, his mind would never romp again like the mind of God. So he waited, listening for a moment longer to the tuning-fork that had been struck upon a star. Then he kissed her. At his lips' touch she blossomed for him like a flower and the incarnation was complete.”</p>	
<p>189 BOOK - Pages 142, 152-153 180 BOOK – Pages 134, 144-145</p> <p>“It passed, and he began to talk excitedly to Daisy, denying everything, defending his name against accusations that had not been made. But with every word she was drawing further and further into herself, so he gave that up, and only the dead dream fought on as the afternoon slipped away, trying to touch what was no longer tangible, struggling unhappily, undespairingly, toward that lost voice across the room.”</p> <p>“Daisy and Tom were sitting opposite each other at the kitchen table, with a plate of cold fried chicken between them, and two bottles of ale. He was talking intently across the table at her, and in his earnestness his hand had fallen upon and covered her own. Once in awhile she looked up at him and nodded in agreement. They weren't happy, and neither of them had touched the chicken or ale – and yet they weren't unhappy either. There was an unmistakable air of natural intimacy about the picture, and anybody would have said that they were conspiring together...He put his hands in his coat pockets and turned back eagerly to his scrutiny of the house, as though my presence marred the sacredness of the vigil. So I walked away and left him standing there in the moonlight—watching over nothing.”</p>	<p>Discuss “unhappily” “undespairingly” Is the dream dead to Nick, Gatsby, or both? Why does Daisy reject Gatsby? Discuss the irony of intimacy. What might they be conspiring? Identify and discuss the religious diction? Discuss “watching over nothing.”</p>
<p>189 BOOK - Page 162 180 BOOK – Page 154</p> <p>“We shook hands and I started away. Just before I reached the hedge, I remembered something and turned around. ‘They’re a rotten crowd,’ I shouted across the lawn. ‘You’re worth the whole damn bunch of them put together.’ I’ve always been glad I said that. It was the only compliment I ever gave him, because I disapproved of him from beginning to end. First he nodded politely, and then his face broke into that radiant and understanding smile, as if we’d been in ecstatic cahoots on that fact all the time. His gorgeous pink rag of a suit made a bright spot of color against the white steps, and I thought of the night when I first came to his</p>	<p>Identify the paradox and explain why its significant. Especially the paradox at the beginning and end of the paragraph. Discuss the “smile” in relation to the earlier mention of his smile. What do they both “understand” or have in common? Explain the use of color and the significance of “rag.” The thanking of Gatsby arguable establishes distance. Why might Fitzgerald be setting Gatsby’s character apart from the rest of the characters?</p>

<p>ancestral home, three months before. The lawn and drive had been crowded with the faces of those who guessed at his corruption – and he had stood on those steps, concealing his incorruptible dream, as he waved them goodbye. I thanked him for his hospitality. We were always thanking him for that – I and the others. ‘Good by,’ I called, ‘I enjoyed breakfast, Gatsby.’”</p>	
<p>189 BOOK - Page 169 180 BOOK – Page 161 “No telephone message arrived....gliding toward him through the amorphous trees.”</p>	<p>How does the instruction to the butler prove Gatsby does not give up? How much of this description is accurate? In other words, how much can you attribute to Gatsby’s feelings and how much is actually Nick displacing his feelings onto Gatsby? Discuss the anti-romantic diction “grotesque rose” raw sunlight” etc. Discuss the difference between the “old warm world” and the “new world” Discuss the new world in terms of “material without being real” Discuss “ghosts, breathing dreams.” How is Wilson one of the ghosts?</p>
<p>189 BOOK - Page 189 180 BOOK – Page 180  Most of the big...ceaselessly into the past.”</p>	<p>Explain the historical moment here and how it sets up the allegory. Explain the connection between the “green breast” and the “green light” Explain the connection between the land “whispering” and Daisy’s voice Identify and explain the romantic diction Discuss the shift in the next paragraph Discuss the idea of something being out of reach. What type of imagery is created by “dark fields” and “republic rolled on under the night?” What is significant about the word “us?” Why is the sentence unfinished? Explain the final image in relation to recapturing the past.</p>
Choice Quote 1	
Choice Quote 2	
Choice Quote 3	
Choice Quote 4	

