 *Mrs. Martin*

*The Great Gatsby* Reading Journal

**Directions:**

Just as the narrator Nick experiences new people and places in

Northeastern New York in the story, you will also be

chronicling your adventures via a reading journal in your

composition notebook for *The Great Gatsby.* This should

be labeled in your notebook and responses should be

entered after each chapter is completed.

Your journals will be collected on two dates: **March 6th and March 13th**, so it is important that you stay on track during this novel! Try to write your entry immediately after you finish reading a chapter so that it will be fresh in your mind, thoughts, and words! ☺

**Journal Requirements** (One for each chapter, so nine [9] journals in total):

1. Heading should include the chapter number and page numbers.
2. Paragraph One: Write at least a three sentence chapter summary.
3. For each chapter choose a different character/place/event to focus on for the following (pick ONE of the three). Then:
   1. Name the character/place/event
   2. Choose a line/sentence the best represents the character/place/event, citing in MLA style (Fitzgerald 122).
   3. Write one sentence why you chose this character/place/event.
4. Paragraph Two: Write at least two sentences of your personal response here. There are no right or wrong answers. What did you like? Dislike? Inferences for the next chapter??
5. Choose one quote from a character that stood out to you. Then write one sentence: Why did it stand out? What do you think the quote means?

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*The Great Gatsby* Reading Journal Rubric (2 Journal Checks @ 100 Points each)

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| **CATEGORY** | **A (25-23 pts)** | **B (22-20 pts)** | **C (19-17 pts)** | **D-F (16-0)** | **Total Points** |
| **ORGANIZATION/ STRUCTURE** | Organizational structure is well put together. Headings and questions are clearly written and answered. | Organizational structure is established; minor lapses present. Missing one of the main requirements. | The structure is minimally complete. Missing two or more of the requirements given in the instructions. | The overall structure is incomplete or confusing. Heading and question statements are missing. |  |
| **FOCUS/CLARITY** | Summary and quotes are clear and supported in a logical way. | Summary and quotes are present, but lacking detail and support. | Summary may be vague. Quotes are not supported well in writing. | Summary is unclear or confusing. Quotes are not present. |  |
| **CONTENT/**  **ELABORATION** | Elaboration consists of specific, developed details that draw from textual evidence in the story. | Elaboration consists of some specific details from the novel, but could use more depth or page numbers for reference. | Elaboration consists of general and/or undeveloped details, which may be presented in a list-like fashion. | Elaboration is sparse; no details to very few details that do not connect text to writing; no page numbers or references |  |
| **READER RESPONSE** | The reader clearly shows understanding to the reading, and provides examples to personal life. | Reader addresses issues in chapter, but is missing minor details/does not relate to self. | Reader does not address different key issues inside chapter and misses info on character(s). | Reader does not make any effort to show understanding of the chapter; little to no work present. |  |

Total Points: \_\_\_ / 100

Sample Journal Entry: Chapter 1—Pages 1-21

Name: Johnny Appleseed

1. This first chapter shows protagonist Nick Carraway’s background and his traveling to New York to visit his cousin, Daisy Buchanan. He meets Daisy and her husband Tom outside their home. As Nick returns home that first night, he sees a mysterious man from the dock reaching out towards a green light on the other end of the bay.
2. A. I chose the character Daisy Buchanan.

B. “I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can hope for in this world, a beautiful little fool” (Fitzgerald 8). I chose this line because I found it very interesting, especially coming from Daisy, who seems a little bit like a pretty yet air-for-brains girl herself. However, while she may put on a dumb front with this line, it may also show that Daisy is smart and knows how to “play the part” in order to get what she wants.

C. I chose Daisy because even though I dislike her character, I find her interesting. I think she tries to act silly, but has really come to the point in life where she feels that as a woman, she can only be a trophy wife to Tom. Daisy does not really act or think for herself; she only cares about what she has, even putting that above her baby daughter.

1. I really like the book so far. I think all the characters, especially Daisy, will have big parts to play. Daisy seems to like Nick very much, but much like she only appears to care about superficial things, I can’t decide yet whether she only likes Nick superficially as well. She certainly does not seem to think for herself much, as she always listens to what her controlling husband Tom has to say.
2. My favorite quote from this chapter was Nick’s first description of Gatsby: “He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and I could have sworn he was trembling involuntarily ... at a little green light at the end of the dock on the opposite end of the bay” (Fitzgerald 20-21). It stood out to me because I thought it was beautifully written and a mysterious line at the same time, and will have a part to play soon, too.