

The Great Gatsby Essay Prompts

The Lost Generation – Gertrude Stein once said to Ernest Hemingway about the artists of the 1920’s, “You are all a lost generation.” **Explain what it means to be “lost” in this context, and analyze how at least three of the characters in the novel are representative of the lost generation of the 1920’s and 1930’s in America.** Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

The American Dream

Most would consider dreams to be positive motivators to achieve success, but the characters in the novel often take their dreams of ideal lives too far. **Choose at least three characters from the novel and explain how their American dreams cause them to have pain when they could have been content with more modest ambitions.** Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

Masks

Most of the characters in the novel put on false fronts in order to conceal their own imperfections. **Identify at least three of the characters who put on these masks, their motivations for doing this, and the repercussions they suffer because of it.** Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

Females of the 1920’s

The men in the novel use deceit, money, and abuse of power in order to get ahead. The women are treated like expensive trophies by the men. **Identify how the three female characters in the novel are forced to behave in order to compete in this superficial world.** Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

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