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The novel "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald critically analyzes the idea of the "American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depicting the lives of its protagonists, this classic piece of American Dream." In addition to depict piece of American Dream." In addition Dream." In addition Dream." In addition Dream." In addition Dream. The Dream Dream Dream. The Dream Dream Dream Drea
Dream. The American Dream in the Roaring Twenties: The Roaring Twenties, a period of economic prosperity and cultural transformation in the United States, is the backdrop against which "The Great Gatsby" unfolds. This era is often associated with the American Dream, a concept that embodies the idea of upward mobility, success, and the pursuit
of happiness through hard work and determination. It is a dream deeply rooted in the nation's history and ideals, promising a better life and limitless opportunities to those willing to strive for them. In the 1920s, the American Dream took on new dimensions as material wealth and excess came to the forefront. Characters and Their Pursuit of the
American Dream: Throughout the novel, we see various characters striving for their version of the American Dream, and Fitzgerald uses their experiences to shed light on the complexities and pitfalls of this pursuit. Jay Gatsby, epitomizes the American Dream, and Fitzgerald uses their experiences to shed light on the complexities and pitfalls of this pursuit. Jay Gatsby, epitomizes the American Dream, and Fitzgerald uses their experiences to shed light on the complexities and pitfalls of this pursuit.
circumstances, he reinvents himself as a wealthy and mysterious figure, hosting extravagant parties and accumulating wealth in the hope of winning back his lost love, Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby's life and fortune symbolize the possibility of self-transformation and success. However, his single-minded obsession with the past and his unrealistic pursuit of
an idealized vision of love ultimately lead to his tragic downfall. Daisy Buchanan: Daisy is emblematic of those who achieve the material trappings of the American Dream. She is married to Tom Buchanan, a wealthy and influential man, and lives in luxury. Yet, she is also unhappy and trapped in a loveless marriage. Daisy represents the emptiness that
can be found at the heart of a life driven solely by the pursuit of material success. Tom Buchanan: Tom, Daisy's husband, is a symbol of the established American elite. He enjoys the privileges of inherited wealth and social status. However, he is arrogant, racist, and unfaithful. Tom's character illustrates that the American Dream, when achieved at the
expense of others, can lead to moral decay and a lack of empathy. Myrtle Wilson: Myrtle, Tom's mistress, represents the lower social strata's aspirations for the American Dream leads her into an affair with Tom and, ultimately, to a
tragic end. George Wilson: George, Myrtle's husband, works tirelessly to achieve his version of the American Dream: financial success and a better life for himself and his wife. However, his pursuit is futile, and he remains trapped in the Valley of Ashes, highlighting the disparity between the Dream's promise and the reality of economic inequality.
The Illusory Nature of the American Dream: Fitzgerald's portrayal of these characters and their experiences serves to critique the American Dream as pursued in the 1920s, often leads to disillusionment and moral decay rather than genuine happiness and success. The lavish parties, extravagant
displays of wealth, and material excess that pervade the story are, in many ways, a facade that conceals the emptiness and corruption beneath. Gatsby's Pursuit of Daisy, who represents that past, demonstrate the inherent flaw in his version of the American Dream. He
believes that material wealth and social status alone will secure his happiness, yet he is unable to let go of his romanticized vision of the past, leading to his eventual downfall. The Moral Decay of the Wealthy Elite: Tom and Daisy Buchanan, who seemingly have everything the American Dream promises, are morally bankrupt. They are careless and
selfish, causing harm to others without consequence. Their wealth does not lead to happiness but rather exacerbates their moral decay. The Hollow Pursuit of Myrtle: M
chases. The Inequality and Hopelessness of George Wilson: George Wilson: George Wilson: George Wilson's futile pursuit of the American Dream highlights the stark economic inequality in society and the hopelessness that can result from chasing an unattainable goal. The Green Light and the Unattainable Dream: A recurring symbol in the novel is the green light at the end of
Daisy's dock, which Gatsby gazes at longingly. The green light represents the unattainable Dream, forever just out of reach. It symbolizes the belief that success and happiness can be achieved through the pursuit of an idealized past or a materialistic future, even though they remain elusive. Also Read- Discuss the theme of disillusionment in F. Scott
Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby Analyze the use of symbolism in F. Scott Fitzgerald's use of the green light underscores the theme that the American Dream, as it is often conceived, is an unattainable ideal. The Dream can never be
fully realized because it is based on illusions, unrealistic expectations, and the pursuit of fleeting pleasures. The Influence of Society and Culture: Fitzgerald also critiques the society and culture of the 1920s, which encouraged the pursuit of material success and the idea that one could achieve their dreams through external markers of wealth and
social status. The characters in the novel are products of this culture, where excess and ostentation were valued. This societal influence contributes to the characters' flawed pursuit of the Dream. The Tragic Outcome: "The Great Gatsby" ultimately ends in tragedy. Gatsby's death and the other characters' unhappy fates serve as a cautionary tale
about the perils of a Dream pursued with misguided values and an obsession with the past. The novel conveys the idea that the Dream, when it becomes an all-consuming force, can lead to personal and societal destruction. Have you ever wondered why The Great Gatsby resonates so deeply even today? This classic novel isn't just a tale of love and
loss; it's packed with symbols that reveal the complexities of the American Dream. You might find yourself reflecting on your own dreams and the lengths you'd go to achieve them. Symbolism of the American Dream: The Great Gatsby employs powerful symbols, like the green light and the valley of ashes, to illustrate both the allure and the
disillusionment of the American Dream. Complex Characters: Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan represent the complexities of aspiration and societal values, showcasing how wealth can lead to moral decay and disappointment. Moral and Societal values, showcasing how wealth can lead to moral decay and disappointment.
stark contrast to the opulence of the upper class. Ethical Critique: The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg reflect the loss of spiritual values in a materialistic society, symbolizing a moral authority that critiques the characters' ethical failings. Reflective Themes: The intertwining themes of class disparities, aspiration, and social criticism encourage readers to
reflect on their values within the context of society's expectations. The Great Gatsby, written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, captures the essence of the American Dream and its disillusionment during the 1920s. The novel's main character, Jay Gatsby, represents hope, wealth, and the relentless pursuit of success. His extravagant parties and ostentations
lifestyle symbolize the era's excess and the desire for social ascent. Fitzgerald uses various symbols throughout the narrative to deepen the themes of aspiration and despair. The green light at the end of Daisy Buchanan's dock embodies Gatsby's dreams and unattainable goals. It reflects his longing not just for wealth, but for love and acceptance.
The valley of ashes, with its desolate landscape, symbolizes the moral decay hidden beneath the glamorous facade of the upper class. This stark contrast emphasizes the emptiness that often accompanies the pursuit of wealth. Additionally, the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg serve as a haunting reminder of the loss of spiritual values in a materialistic
society. The characters themselves further illustrate these symbols. Daisy represents the superficiality of wealth and the emptiness of the American Dream. Tom Buchanan exemplifies the arrogance and entitlement that accompany inherited wealth. Their interactions with Gatsby highlight the conflicts between aspiration and reality. Overall, Theoremselves further illustrate these symbols.
Great Gatsby showcases the complexities of dreams, identity, and societal expectations. The rich symbolism invites you to reflect on your values and desires within the context of broader societal norms. Symbols in "The Great Gatsby" illustrate deeper meanings behind the characters and themes, providing insight into the pursuit of the American
Dream and its pitfalls. The green light at Daisy's dock serves as a powerful symbol of Gatsby's unreachable dreams. It represents hope, aspiration, and the illusion of the American Dream. Gatsby stretches toward this light, reflecting his desire for a future with Daisy. The light embodies both the promise of a better life and the reality of unattainable
goals. The valley of ashes symbolizes the moral and social decay resulting from the uninhibited pursuit of wealth. Located between West Egg and New York City, it represents the lost dreams of those who have been marginalized by society. Characters like George Wilson illustrate the consequences of economic disparity and the hollow nature of the
American Dream. This desolate landscape starkly contrasts with the opulence of Gatsby's parties, emphasizing the theme of decay hidden beneath the surface of wealth. The eyes of God or a moral authority watching over the characters. These eyes
critique the characters' ethical failures and the emptiness of their pursuits. They imply that one cannot escape judgment, even amid the excesses of 1920s America. The fading billboard serves as a reminder of the loss of moral values in the quest for wealth and status. The themes in "The Great Gatsby" intertwine deeply with its rich symbols,
revealing insights about society and individual aspirations. Each element offers a lens through which to understand the characters' motivations and the era's complexities. The American Dream serves as a core theme in "The Great Gatsby," symbolizing both hope and disillusionment. Gatsby embodies this ideal, striving for success, wealth, and status
to win back Daisy. The green light at the end of Daisy's dock reflects his unyielding pursuit of dreams, representing the promise of a better future. However, it also signifies the elusive nature of those dreams, showcasing how the American Dream can become unattainable, a constant distance away. Ultimately, the narrative critiques the ideal,
suggesting that the pursuit of wealth and status can lead to emptiness rather than fulfillment. Class and society underscore the disparities within the novel, illustrated through symbols like the valley of ashes and the lavish lifestyle of East Egg residents. The valley represents moral decay and social neglect, contrasting sharply with the opulence of
Gatsby's parties. This stark divide emphasizes the consequences of an unbridled pursuit of wealth and the cost of social ascent, prompting
readers to reflect on societal values. In "The Great Gatsby," each character represents deeper ideas and themes, symbolizes the hope and ambition at the heart of the American Dream. His extravagant lifestyle and lavish parties reflect the era's excess, drawing in the
wealthy elite. Gatsby's quest for Daisy Buchanan showcases his relentless pursuit of dreams, mirroring a broader aspiration for success. The green light at Daisy's dock stands as a powerful symbol of his unreachable desires, representing both hope and disillusionment. Despite his wealth, Gatsby remains an outsider, highlighting the emptiness of
social status when divorced from genuine connections. This disconnection illustrates the moral decay beneath the glamorous facade of the Jazz Age. Daisy Buchanan embodies the allure and superficiality of wealth. Her beauty captivates Gatsby and symbolizes the unattainable nature of his dreams. Her voice, described as possessing "money," reveals
the seductive quality of wealth and the corruption it brings. Daisy's character represents the moral ambiguity present within the upper class, demonstrating how entitlement and privilege often lead to a void of true fulfillment. Her choice to stay with Tom Buchanan despite his unfaithfulness further symbolizes the hollowness of her values, as she opts
for security over genuine affection. Daisy reveals that the pursuit of wealth often comes at the cost of personal integrity and happiness, echoing the novel's overarching themes of aspiration and the dangers of materialism. "The Great Gatsby" offers a timeless exploration of dreams and disillusionment. As you dive into its rich symbolism you can't help
but reflect on your own aspirations and the lengths you'd go to achieve them. The characters and their journeys reveal the complexities of wealth and the stark realities of the valley of ashes you're invited to ponder the true cost of ambition. This
novel serves as a mirror reflecting both the allure and emptiness of the American Dream, encouraging you to consider what really matters in your own quest for success. So as you close the book take a moment to think about your dreams and the values that guide you along the way. The main theme of "The Great Gatsby" is the American Dream. It
explores the pursuit of success, love, and wealth while highlighting the disillusionment that often accompanies those aspirations. The novel critiques how the relentless chase for materialism can lead to moral decay and emptiness. Jay Gatsby is the novel's central character, symbolizing hope, ambition, and the American Dream. His extravagant
lifestyle and unyielding quest for Daisy Buchanan embody the desire for success, yet also serve as a cautionary tale about the loneliness and disillusionment that can result from such pursuits. The green light at Daisy Buchanan's dock signifies Gatsby's unreachable dreams and hopes. It reflects his aspirations for love and success while also
highlighting the illusion of the American Dream. The light symbolizes both hope and the inevitability of disillusionment. The valley of ashes represents moral and social decay resulting from the unrestrained pursuit of wealth. It contrasts with the opulence of the upper class, illustrating the consequences of economic disparity and the loss of ethical
values in society. Daisy Buchanan embodies the allure and superficiality of wealth. Her character reflects the moral ambiguity of the upper class and the emptiness of prioritizing materialism over genuine relationships. Her choices reveal the hollowness of her values and the dangers of living in a world driven by social status. The eyes of Dr. T.J.
Eckleburg, depicted on a billboard, symbolize a watchful moral authority critiquing the characters' ethical failures. They guestion the characters' motivations and the emptiness of their pursuits. The setting, primarily in the 1920s American failures.
highlights the societal excess and the clash between old money (East Egg) and new money (West Egg). It underscores the themes of class disparity, aspiration, and the moral decay hidden beneath the glamorous surface of the Jazz Age, enriching the reader's understanding of the characters' motivations. "`html The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
is a quintessential representation of the American Dream involves aspirations, wealth, and success; on the other, it unveils the detachment from genuine happiness and moral values. Through the character of Jay Gatsby, Fitzgerald explores the
multifaceted nature of the American Dream, illustrating how its pursuit often leads to disillusionment. This blog post will walk you through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how this idea spreads through the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the intricacies of language in shaping cultural identity and how the int
La influencia del uso del lenguaje en la formación de la identidad cultural Language plays a crucial role in shaping cultural identity, affecting how individuals perceive themselves and others within their society. In The Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald uses rich and evocative language to paint a picture of an era and its people, filled with hope and despair.
Through his prose, he captures the essence of the 1920s' Jazz Age and the societal shifts that accompanied it, highlighting both the allure and the emptiness of the American Dream. Gatsby's speech patterns and expressions reveal his pursuit of a cultivated identity, one that he believes will grant him access to the upper echelons of society. His
deliberate choice of words and mannerisms dramatizes the extent to which he is willing to go to fit into a world that he idolizes yet misunderstands. The contrast between Gatsby's invented persona and his reality underscores the inadequacy of language alone in allowing individuals to fully assimilate into a culture that ultimately rejects them.
Moreover, Fitzgerald uses language as a medium to reflect the disparities and social divisions prevalent during the era. The characters' dialogues often hint at their backgrounds, aspirations, and social standings, whether it's Tom Buchanan's authoritative and condescending tone or Daisy Buchanan's superficial charm. The way language is employed
by each character serves as a reflection of their personal struggles and desires, providing insight into the complex web of identities interwoven within the American Dream. Spread the word: The dissection of The Great Gatsby, and the way it portrays the American Dream.
insights with a broader audience, one can encourage a collective reassessment of what defines success and happiness. As Gatsby's story demonstrates, the incessant pursuit of wealth and status does not inherently lead to fulfillment or acceptance. Encouraging discussions about the novel's depiction of the American Dream can enlighten readers on
the transient and often deceptive nature of materialistic pursuits. Gatsby's ultimate failure acts as a cautionary tale, urging readers to seek deeper meaning beyond the superficial allure of riches and social acclaim. Sharing these themes through book clubs, online forums, or educational settings can open up a dialogue on how cultural and personal
values shape one's understanding of success. In our interconnected world, social media and digital platforms have become powerful tools for spreading the message of Fitzgerald's work. Crafting posts that highlight key themes from the book can ignite curiosity and introspection among users, especially younger generations who may be grappling
with their dreams and goals. Linking literary exploration to contemporary issues of identity and ambition can make these classic narratives accessible and relevant in today's society. Aspect Discussion Points Language and Identity Explores how language shapes cultural identity and reveals characters' social standings. The American Dream Highlights
the dual nature of the dream as both aspirational and ultimately disillusioning. Dissemination Encouragement to share and discuss on the novel through the lens of the American Dream, focusing on language and identity and encouraging readers to share and discuss
the novel's insights. The Great Gatsby is a tragic love story on the surface, but it's most commonly understood as a pessimistic critique of the American Dream. In the novel, Jay Gatsby overcomes his poor past to gain an incredible amount of social cache in 1920s NYC, only to be rejected by the "old money" crowd. He
then gets killed after being tangled up with them. Through Gatsby's life, as well as that of the Wilsons', Fitzgerald critiques the idea that America is a meritocracy where anyone can rise to the top with enough hard work. We will explore how this theme plays out in the plot, briefly analyze some key quotes about it, as well as do some character analysis
and broader analysis of topics surrounding the American Dream in The Great Gatsby. Roadmap What is the American Dream? The Ame
(chapter.paragraph). We're using this system since there are many editions of Gatsby, so using page numbers would only work for students with our copy of the book. To find a quotation we cite via chapter; 100-on: end of chapter),
or use the search function if you're using an online or eReader version of the text. What Exactly Is "The American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender, or nationality, can be successful in American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, gender, 
American society that ignores problems like systemic racism and misogyny, xenophobia, tax evasion or state tax avoidance, and income inequality. It also presumes a myth of class equality, when the reality is America has a pretty well-developed class hierarchy. The 1920s in particular was a pretty tumultuous time due to increased immigration (and
the accompanying xenophobia), changing women's roles (spurred by the right to vote, which was won in 1919), and extraordinary income inequality. The country was also in the midst of an economic growth was built on a bubble which popped
in 1929. The Great Gatsby was published in 1925, well before the crash, but through its wry descriptions of the ultra-wealthy, it seems to somehow predict that the fantastic wealth on display in 1920s, is unlikely to present an optimistic
view of the American Dream, or at least a version of the dream that's inclusive to all genders, ethnicities, and incomes. With that background in mind, let's jump into the plot! The American Dream in The Great Gatsby Chapter 1 places us in a particular year—1922—and gives us some background about WWI. This is relevant, since the 1920s is
presented as a time of hollow decadence among the wealthy, as evidenced especially by the parties in Chapter 2 and 3. And as we mentioned above, the 1920s were a particularly tense time in America. We also meet George and Myrtle Wilson in Chapter 2, both working class people who are working to improve their lot in life, George through his
work, and Myrtle through her affair with Tom Buchanan. We learn about Gatsby's goal in Chapter 4: to win Daisy back. Despite everything he owns, including fantastic amounts of money and an over-the-top mansion, for Gatsby, Daisy is the ultimate status symbol. So in Chapter 5, when Daisy and Gatsby reunite and begin an affair, it seems like
Gatsby could, in fact, achieve his goal. In Chapter 6, we learn about Gatsby's less-than-wealthy past, which not only makes him look like the star of a rags-to-riches story, it makes Gatsby himself seem like someone in pursuit of the American Dream, and for him the personification of that dream is Daisy. However, in Chapters 7 and 8, everything comes
crashing down: Daisy refuses to leave Tom. Myrtle is killed, and George breaks down and kills Gatsby and then himself, leaving all of the "strivers" dead and the old money crowd safe. Furthermore, we learn in those last chapters that Gatsby didn't even achieve all his wealth through hard work, like the American Dream would stipulate—instead, he
earned his money through crime. (He did work hard and honestly under Dan Cody, but lost Dan Cody's inheritance to his ex-wife.) In short, things do not turn out well for our dreamers in the novel! Thus, the novel ends with Nick's sad meditation on the lost promise of the American Dream. You can read a detailed analysis of these last lines in our
summary of the novel's ending. This novel is just one very large burst bubble. Key American Dream in the book. But I didn't call to him for he gave a sudden intimation that he was content to be alone--he stretched out his arms toward the dark
water in a curious way, and far as I was from him I could have sworn he was trembling. Involuntarily I glanced seaward--and distinguished nothing except a single green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock. (1.152) In our first glimpse of Jay Gatsby, we see him reaching towards something far off, something in sight but
image is our introduction to Gatsby foreshadows his unhappy end and also marks him as a dreamer, rather than people like Tom or Daisy who were born with money and don't need to strive for anything so far off. Over the great bridge, with the sunlight through the girders making a constant flicker upon the moving cars, with the city rising up across
the river in white heaps and sugar lumps all built with a wish out of non-olfactory money. The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge is always the city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise of all the mystery and the beauty in the world. A dead man passed us in a hearse heaped with blooms, followed by two carriages with drawn blinds and by
more cheerful carriages for friends. The friends looked out at us with the tragic eyes and short upper lips of south-eastern Europe, and I was glad that the sight of Gatsby's splendid car was included in their somber holiday. As we crossed Blackwell's Island a limousine passed us, driven by a white chauffeur, in which sat three modish Negroes, two
bucks and a girl. I laughed aloud as the yolks of their eyeballs rolled toward us in haughty rivalry. "Anything can happen now that we've slid over this bridge," I thought; "anything at all. . . . " Even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder. (4.55-8) Early in the novel, we get this mostly optimistic illustration of the American Dream—we see
people of different races and nationalities racing towards NYC, a city of unfathomable possibility, racial and religious diversity, a carefree attitude. At this moment, it does feel like "anything can happen," even a happy ending. However, this rosy view eventually
gets undermined by the tragic events later in the novel. And even at this point, Nick's condescension towards the people in the other cars reinforces America's racial hierarchy that disrupts the idea of the American Dream. There is even a little competition at play, a "haughty rivalry" at play between Gatsby's car and the one bearing the "modish
Negroes." Nick "laughs aloud" at this moment, suggesting he thinks it's amusing that the passengers in this other car see them as equals, or even rivals to be bested. In other words, he seems to firmly believe in the racial hierarchy Tom defends in Chapter 1, even if it doesn't admit it honestly. His heart beat faster and 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 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. (6.134) This moment explicitly ties Daisy to all of Gatsby's larger dreams for a better life—to his American Dream. This sets the stage for the novel's tragic ending, since Daisy cannot hold up under the weight of the dream Gatsby projects onto her. Instead, she stays with Tom Buchanan, despite her feelings for Gatsby. Thus
when Gatsby fails to win over Daisy, he also fails to achieve his version of the American Dream. This is why so many people read the moon rose higher the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old island here
that flowered once for Dutch sailors' eyes--a fresh, green breast of the new world. Its vanished trees, the trees that had made way for Gatsby's house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a transitory enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an
aesthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired, face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder. And as I sat there brooding on the old, unknown world, I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy's dock. He had come a long way to this blue lawr
and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night." (9.151-152) The closing pages of the novel reflect at length on the American Dream, in an attitude that
for a better life, and constantly reached out toward that brighter future. For a full consideration of these last lines and what they could mean, see our analysis of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the characters in terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the characters in terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the characters in terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the characters in terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the characters in terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the American Dream usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the American Dream Usually leads to a pretty cynical take on the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the American Dream An analysis of the Characters In terms of the Characters In t
Dream. Most character analysis centered on the American Dream will necessarily focus on Gatsby, George, or Myrtle (the true strivers in the novel), though as we'll discuss below, the Buchanans can also provide some interesting layers of discussion. For character analysis that incorporates the American Dream, carefully consider your chosen
everything to slip away from him in the end. Many people also incorporate Daisy into their analyses as the physical representation of Gatsby's dream. However, definitely consider the fact that in the traditional American Dream, people achieve their goals through honest hard work, but in Gatsby's case, he very quickly acquires a large amount of
money through crime. Gatsby does attempt the hard work approach, through his years of service to Dan Cody, but that doesn't work out since Cody's ex-wife ends up with the entire inheritance. So instead he turns to crime, and only then does he manage to achieve his desired wealth. So while Gatsby's story arc resembles a traditional rags-to-riches
tale, the fact that he gained his money immorally complicates the idea that he is a perfect avatar for the American Dream. Furthermore, his success obviously doesn't last—he still pines for Daisy and loses everything in his attempt to get her back. In other words, Gatsby's huge dreams, all precariously wedded to Daisy ("He knew that when he kissed
this girl, and forever wed his unutterable visions to her perishable breath, his mind would never romp again like the mind of God" (6.134)) are as flimsy and flight as Daisy herself. George and Myrtle Wilson This couple also represents people aiming at the dream—George owns his own shop and is doing his best to get business, though is increasingly
worn down by the harsh demands of his life, while Myrtle chases after wealth and status through an affair with Tom. Both are disempowered due to the lack of money at their own disposal—Myrtle certainly has access to some of the "finer things" through Tom but has to deal with his abuse, while George is unable to leave his current life and move
West since he doesn't have the funds available. He even has to make himself servile to Tom in an attempt to get Tom to sell his car, a fact that could even cause him to overlook the evidence of his wife's affair. So neither character is on the upward trajectory that the American Dream promises, at least during the novel. In the end, everything goes
horribly wrong for both George and Myrtle, suggesting that in this world, it's dangerous to strive for more than you're given. George and Myrtle's deadly fates, along with Gatsby's, help illustrate the novel's pessimistic attitude toward the American Dream. After all, how unfair is it that the couple working to improve their position in society (George and Myrtle's deadly fates, along with Gatsby's, help illustrate the novel's pessimistic attitude toward the American Dream.
and Myrtle) both end up dead, while Tom, who dragged Myrtle into an increasingly dangerous situation, and Daisy, who killed her, don't face any consequences? And on top of that they are fabulously wealthy? The American Dream We've talked
quite a bit already about Gatsby, George, and Myrtle—the three characters who come from humble roots and try to climb the ranks in 1920s New York. But what about the other major characters, especially the ones born with money? What is their relationship to the American Dream? Specifically, Tom and Daisy have old money, and thus they don't
need the American Dream, since they were born with America already at their feet. Perhaps because of this, they seem to directly antagonize the dream—Daisy by refusing Gatsby, and Tom by helping to drag the Wilsons into tragedy. This is especially interesting because unlike Gatsby, Myrtle, and George, who actively hope and dream of a better life
dream doesn't seem to matter. This, of course, is tragic and antithetical to the idea of the American Dream As we discuss in our post on money and materialism in The Great Gatsby, Daisy's voice is explicitly tied to money by
Gatsby: "Her voice is full of money," he said suddenly. That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full of money, and the American Dream is
explicitly linked to wealth, it's not hard to argue that Daisy herself—along with the green light at the end of her dock—stands in for the American Dream. In fact, as Nick goes on to describe Daisy as a prize, much like the princess at the end of a
fairy tale (or even Princess Peach at the end of a Mario game!). But Daisy, of course, is only human—flawed, flighty, and ultimately unable to embody the huge fantasy, a concept too flimsy to actually hold weight, especially in the fast-paced, dog-eat-dog
world of 1920s America. Furthermore, you should definitely consider the tension between the fact that Daisy represents Gatsby's ultimate goal, but at the same time (as we discussed above), her actual life is the opposite of the American Dream: she is born with money and privilege, likely dies with it all intact, and there are no consequences to how
she chooses to live her life in between. Can Female Characters Achieve the American Dream? Finally, it's interesting to compare and contrast some of the female characters using the lens of the American Dream. Let's start with Daisy, who is unhappy in her marriage and, despite a brief attempt to leave it, remains with Tom, unwilling to give up the
status and security their marriage provides. At first, it may seem like Daisy doesn't dream at all, so of course she ends up unhappy. But consider the fact that Daisy was already born into the highest level of American society. The expectation placed on her, as a wealthy woman, was never to pursue something greater, but simply to maintain her status
She did that by marrying Tom, and it's understandable why she wouldn't risk the uncertainty and loss of status that would come through divorce and marriage to a bootlegger. Again, Daisy seems to typify the "anti-American" dream, in that she was born into a kind of aristocracy and simply has to maintain her position, not fight for something better.
specifically for wrongfully assuming she had value to them. Considering that Gatsby did have a chance to leave New York and distance himself from the unfolding tragedy, but Myrtle was the first to be killed, you could argue the novel presents an even bleaker view of the American Dream where women are concerned. Even Jordan Baker, who seems
to be living out a kind of dream by playing golf and being relatively independent, is tied to her family's money and insulated from consequences by it, making her a pretty poor representation of the dream. And of course, since her end game also seems to be marriage, she doesn't push the boundaries of women's roles as far as she might wish. So while the dream by playing golf and being relatively independent, is tied to her family's money and insulated from consequences by it, making her a pretty poor representation of the dream. And of course, since her end game also seems to be marriage, she doesn't push the boundaries of women's roles as far as she might wish.
the women all push the boundaries of society's expectations of them in certain ways, they either fall in line or are killed, which definitely undermines the rosy of idea that anyone, regardless of gender, can make it in America. The American Dream as shown in Gatsby becomes even more pessimistic through the lens of the female characters. Focusing
the lens on the women is predictably depressing. Common Essay Questions/Discussion Topics Now let's work through some of the more frequently brought up subjects for discussion. #1: Was Gatsby's dream worth it? Was all the work, time, and patience worth it for him? Like me, you might immediately think "of course it wasn't worth it! Gatsby lost
everything, not to mention the Wilsons got caught up in the tragedy and ended up dead!" So if you want to make the more obvious "the dream wasn't worth it" argument, you could point to the unraveling that happens at the end of the novel (including the deaths of Myrtle, Gatsby and George) and how all Gatsby's achievements are for nothing, as
evidenced by the sparse attendance of his funeral. However, you could definitely take the less obvious route and argue that Gatsby's dream was worth it, despite the tragic end. First of all, consider Jay's unique characterization in the story: "He was a son of God--a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that--and he must be about His Father's
Business, the service of a vast, vulgar and meretricious beauty" (6.7). In other words, Gatsby has a larger-than-life persona and he never would have been content to remain in North Dakota to be poor farmers like his parents. Even if he ends up living a shorter life, he certainly lived a full one full of adventure. His dreams of wealth and status took him
all over the world on Dan Cody's yacht, to Louisville where he met and fell in love with Daisy, to the battlefields of WWI, to the halls of Oxford University, and then to the fast-paced world of Manhattan in the early 1920s, when he earned a fortune as a bootlegger. In fact, it seems Jay lived several lives in the space of just half a normal lifespan. In
short, to argue that Gatsby's dream was worth it, you should point to his larger-than-life conception of himself, even if that ended up being deadly in the end. #2: In the Langston Hughes poem "A Dream Deferred," Hughes asks questions about
what happens to postponed dreams? How does Fitzgerald examine this issue of deferred dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams" in The Great Gatsby, the big one is obviously Gatsby's deferred dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? If you're thinking about "deferred dreams" in The Great Gatsby, the big one is obviously Gatsby's deferred dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effects of postponing our dreams? What do you think are the effect
pass between his initial infatuation and his attempt in the novel to win her back, an attempt that obviously backfires. You can examine various aspects of Gatsby's dream—the flashbacks to his first memories of Daisy in Chapter 7—to
illustrate Gatsby's deferred dream. You could also look at George Wilson's postponed dream of going West, or Myrtle's dream of marrying a wealthy man of "breeding"—George never gets the funds to go West, and is instead mired in the Valley of Ashes, while Myrtle's attempt to achieve her dream after 12 years of marriage through an affair ends in
tragedy. Apparently, dreams deferred are dreams doomed to fail. As Nick Carraway says, "you can't repeat the past"—the novel seems to imply there is a small window for certain dreams, and when the window closes, they can no longer be attained. This is pretty pessimistic, and for the prompt's personal reflection aspect, I wouldn't say you should
necessarily "apply this lesson to your own life" straightforwardly. But it is worth noting that certain opportunities are fleeting, and perhaps it's wiser to seek out newer and/or more attainable ones, rather than pining over a lost chance. Any prompt like this one which has a section of more personal reflection gives you freedom to tie in your own
experiences and point of view, so be thoughtful and think of good examples from your own life! #3: Explain how the novel does or does not demonstrate the death of the American Dream. Is the main theme of Gatsby indeed "the withering American Dream. Is the main theme of Gatsby indeed "the withering American Dream"? What does the novel offer about American Dream. Is the main theme of Gatsby indeed "the withering American Dream"? What does the novel offer about American Dream. Is the main theme of Gatsby indeed "the withering American Dream"? What does the novel offer about American Dream D
on the dead or dying American Dream, you could discuss how the destruction of three lives (Gatsby, George, Myrtle) and the cynical portrayal of the old money crowd illustrates a dead, or dying American Dream. After all, if the characters who dream end up dead, and the ones who were born into life with money and privilege get to keep it without
consequence, is there any room at all for the idea that less-privileged people can work their way up? In terms of what the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity, there are a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about American identity is not a few threads you could pick up—one is Nick's comment in Chapter 9 about the novel says about the novel says about American identity is not a few threads you could pick up—one identity about the novel says about American identity is not a few threads you could pick up—one identity about the novel says about American identity is not a few threads you could pick up—one identity about the novel says about American identity is not a few threads you could pick up—one identity about the novel says about American identity about the novel says a
been a story of the West, after all--Tom and Gatsby, Daisy and Jordan and I, were all Westerners, and perhaps we possessed some deficiency in common which made us subtly unadaptable to Eastern life" (9.125). This observation suggests an American identity that is determined by birthplace, and that within the American identity there are smaller,
inescapable points of identification. Furthermore, for those in the novel not born into money, the American identity seems to be about striving to end up with more wealth and status. But in terms of the portrayal of the old money set, particularly Daisy, Tom, and Jordan, the novel presents a segment of American society that is essentially aristocratic—
you have to be born into it. In that regard, too, the novel presents a fractured American identity, with different lives possible based on how much money you are born with. In short, I think the novel disrupts the idea of a unified American identity or American dream, by instead presenting a tragic, fractured, and rigid American society, one that is
divided based on both geographic location and social class. #4: 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. Explain how characters in the novel often take their dreams of ideal lives too far. Explain how characters in the novel often take their dreams of ideal lives too far. Explain how characters in the novel often take their dreams of ideal lives too far.
Gatsby is an obvious choice here—his pursuit of money and status, particularly through Daisy, leads him to ruin. There were many points when perhaps Gatsby; could have been happy with what he achieved (especially after his apparently successful endeavors in the war, if he had remained at Oxford, or even after amassing a great amount of wealth
as a bootlegger) but instead he kept striving upward, which ultimately lead to his downfall. You can flesh this argument out with the quotations in Chapters 6 and 8 about Gatsby's past, along with his tragic death. Myrtle would be another good choice for this type of prompt. In a sense, she seems to be living her ideal life in her affair with Tom—she
has a fancy NYC apartment, hosts parties, and gets to act sophisticated—but these pleasures end up gravely hurting George, and of course her association with Tom Buchanan gets her killed. Nick, too, if he had been happy with his family's respectable fortune and his girlfriend out west, might have avoided the pain of knowing Gatsby and the general
sense of despair he was left with. You might be wondering about George—after all, isn't he someone also dreaming of a better life? However, there aren't many instances of George taking his dreams of an ideal life "too far." In fact, he struggles just to make one car sale so that he can finally move out West with Myrtle. Also, given that his current
situation in the Valley of Ashes is quite bleak, it's hard to say that striving upward gave him pain. #5: The Great Gatsby is, among other things, a sobering and even ominous commentary on the dark side of the American dream. Discuss this theme, incorporating the conflicts of East Egg vs. West Egg and old money vs. new money. What does the
American dream mean to Gatsby? What did the American Dream mean to Fitzgerald? How does morality fit into achieving the American dream? This prompt allows you to consider pretty broadly the novel's attitude toward the American Dream, with emphasis on "sobering and even ominous" commentary. Note that Fitzgerald seems to be specifically
mocking the stereotypical rags to riches story here—; especially since he draws the Dan Cody narrative almost universally about rich men schooling young, entrepreneurial boys in the ways of the world. In other words, you should discuss how the Great Gatsby seems
to turn the idea of the American Dream as described in the quote on its head: Gatsby does achieve a rags-to-riches rise, but it doesn't last. All of Gatsby's hard work for Dan Cody, after all, didn't pay off since he lost the inheritance. So instead, Gatsby finally achieves
his great wealth through dubious means, the novel further undermines the classic image of someone working hard and honestly to go from rags to riches. If you're addressing this prompt or a similar one, make sure to focus on the darker aspects of the American Dream, including the dark conclusion to the novel and Daisy and Tom's protection from
any real consequences. (This would also allow you to considering morality, and how morally bankrupt the characters are.) #6: What is the current events today to either be generally optimistic (the American dream is alive and well) or pessimistic
(it's as dead as it is in The Great Gatsby). You have dozens of potential current events to use as evidence for either argument, but consider especially immigration and immigration reform, mass incarceration, income inequality, education, and health care in America as good potential examples to use as you argue about the current state of the
American Dream. Your writing will be especially powerful if you can point to some specific current events to support your argument. What's Next? In this post, we discussed how important money is to the novel's version of the American Dream. You can read even more about money and materialism in The Great Gatsby right here. Want to include in a
little materialism of your own? Take a look through these 15 must-have items for any Great Gatsby fan. Get complete guides to Jay Gatsby, George Wilson and Myrtle Wilson to get even more background on the "dreamers" in the novel. Like we discussed above, the green light is often seen as a stand-in for the idea of the American Dream. Read more
about this crucial symbol here. Need help getting to grips with other literary works? Take a spin through our analysis in action. You might also find our explanations of point of view, rhetorical devices, imagery, and literary elements and devices
helpful. F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby is set in New York City's wealthy suburb during the 1920s. This was a time of great economic boom was seen as an example of the American Dream, which is the belief that anyone can become rich and have a better life in America if he or she works hard enough. F. Scott
Fitzgerald offers a new perspective on the American dream. He shows how it is flawed. Fitzgerald achieves this by showing Jay Gatsby as the protagonist, a man who becomes too caught up in American dreams and is unable to discern reality from fiction. Fitzgerald's character Jay Gatsby, shows how greedy human desire for power and wealth can
undermine the basic principles of America's dream. Jay Gatsby, who had to work hard to make his money, represent the American dreams. Gatsby is a typical American who achieves the American dream through his success in achieving wealth and social status. Gatsby isn't content with his wealth. He believes he can be the 'Platonic conception'
 himself... a child of God. This phrase, if it has any meaning, only means ...' (89). While the American dream can have many aspects, Gatsby believe they can attain social superiority through flaunting their wealth, but this leads to them
never finding true happiness. Gatsby believes the "unreality" of reality, which is a promise that the rock that will make the world a better place, was created by a fairy (89). This means that Gatsby's enjoyment from material objects dulls not be true, which helps him find comfort in the false reality that he has created by a fairy (89). This means that Gatsby believes to be true, which is a promise that the rock that will make the world a better place, was created by a fairy (89). This means that Gatsby's enjoyment from material objects dulls not be true, which is a promise that the rock that will make the world a better place, was created by a fairy (89). This means that Gatsby believes to be true, which is a promise that the rock that will make the world a better place, was created by a fairy (89). This means that Gatsby believes to be true, which is a promise that the rock that will make the world a better place, was created by a fairy (89).
his perception of true happiness. Like many Americans of upper class, Gatsby doesn't realize that the American dream does not only revolve around financial success but also the joy of living. This perk is something that Gatsby has never achieved. Gatsby instead of seeking happiness, he uses his wealth to bring joy to a lonely and sad life. Gatsby's
financial success is only for the benefit of his image, and not for his personal pleasures. This is illustrated on page 153, where Gatsby says, "You know old sport, I haven't used that pool all year?" The reader can infer that the pool was only there to please his guests. Gatsby used bootlegging to obtain his wealth. This is illegal alcohol sales during the
United States' prohibition era. Gatsby has lost the essence of America's dream because he made his inclusion in the elite wealthy represents both the corruption in America in the '20s and the flaws in the American dream. Gatsby's dream seemed so near that it was impossible for him to
miss it. It was not his dream, he didn't know it was behind him" (180). This means that Gatsby pursued the pleasure of increasing his social standing without realizing that he had already achieved this goal. He is unable to see beyond the illusions he has created for himself and he attempts to buy any object that will satisfy his needs. Gatsby is unable
to find happiness in his material possessions and turns to the past to see a time when wealth was a dream, not a harsh reality. Gatsby also shows off his wealth to attract Daisy before due to his poor family
He may have the chance to win Daisy back but his plans are thwarted by Daisy's greater attraction to her husband Tom and the secure life they lead together. Gatsby knows the '... mystery wealth preserves and imprisons. However, his inability to give up his wealth and live a simple life has thwarted his dream. thus suffered a heavy price for living too
long in pursuit of a single dream (161) because he has no goals to achieve. Instead of trying to overcome his misfortunes, Gatsby is now 'a boat against he current, borne back inexorably into the past' (180). Gatsby tried to separate his impossible dream from
the reality until it was too late. Life will seem meaningless and empty if one doesn't achieve happiness. Jay Gatsby was a man who lost his fortune due to the very wealth he longed for. Gatsby is not only a symbol of the American dream's
ugly side. Do you think Jay Gatsby represents the American Dream essay? Gatsby represents the American Dream essay of the American Dream essay
because he's living in a fantasy that is unattainable
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