Study Questions for *The Great Gatsby*
By F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Instructions for using these study questions:**
A. Students may prepare for the in-class essay by answering these questions.
B. Any such prep work, including quotations or key phrases, that you write on this paper will be allowed on your desk during the writing of the in-class essay.
C. Only handwritten notes are acceptable. Only the study questions paper may be used. Students can use anything that they are able to write in the margins, back, and spaces of the study question pages.
D. Make notes about these as we read the book and discuss it in class.
E. Students will not know which study question the teacher has selected as the topic of the in-class essay. On the writing day, the teacher will provide three choices and the student will select one of those choices.

**The Questions:**

1. Is Fitzgerald writing a love story that embraces American ideals, or a satire that comments on American ideals? Have students refer to passages and quotes to build a thesis.

2. In Chapter 6, Nick says, “You can’t repeat the past.” Gatsby replies, “Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you can!” Gatsby then describes a moment when he had kissed Daisy. Nick describes Gatsby’s memory as “appalling sentimentality,” after which Nick himself remembers a “fragment” and an “elusive rhythm.” Are these passages about Nick or Gatsby? What has Nick forgotten that he is trying to retrieve? Finally, does Gatsby misuse the past and his memories in order to enliven the present? Does this make him part of the Lost Generation?

3. Originally titled *On the Road to West Egg,* then *Trimalchio,* then *Under the Red White and Blue or Gold-Hatted Gatsby,* Fitzgerald had difficulty settling on his title. Help F. Scott Fitzgerald rename the novel. Provide an argument to explain why your new title ideally suits the story.

4. At the end of Chapter 3, Nick says: “I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known.” When you consider his role as narrator, do you believe that he is honest? Are his depictions of others honest? If he is not honest, why does he believe he is so honest?

5. Examine the last page of the novel. Fitzgerald writes, "Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that’s no matter—to-morrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther....And one fine morning—” Why does Fitzgerald leave this sentence unfinished? What does Nick think will happen one fine morning? Are hopes and dreams always centered on a future belief? Is this more important than the actual satisfaction of one’s desires? Why or why not?