DAY 2: THE GREAT GATSBY
September 27, 2012

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Objectives: Day 2

• Understand the framework for *Gatsby* i.e.,
  – Where does Fitzgerald’s work fit into the genre that is American Literature?
    • Literary Timeline
    • Definition of Modernism
  – What impact if any does Fitzgerald’s life have on the novel *Gatsby*?
    • Video – American Dreamer
    • Post Discussion - American Dreamer Video
Agenda
September 27, 2012

1. Announcements:
   – Liason – Kathie West

2. Teacher Notes on:
   – Chapter 1
   – American Literary Tradition
     • Timeline American Literature
     • Modernism – Definition

3. Video: A & E: American Dreamer (Fitzgerald)

4. Post Video Discussion
Notes on Chapter 1

• **Chapter 1 serves as an:**
  – Introduction of all major characters except Wilson
    • Chapter 2 all minor characters are introduced
  – Establishes scene and mood i.e.,
    • West/East Egg w/ a mood of:
      – mingled scorn mixed w/ fascination for wealthy

• Note: Discovery, by Nick, of Tom’s affair begins the rising action and signals the start of the conflict between opposing forces.
1. **Point of View**: (The meaning of Nick as narrator)
   - Is he Fitzgerald?
   - Is he telling you the real story?
   - Will he be the novel’s ‘real’ hero?
   - What is Nick’s role in the novel? (observer/participant)

2. **Motif**: Surface without Substance – What/Who has none?
   - Gatsby’s life had been “an unbroken series of successful gestures”

3. **Characterization**:
   - The Fitzgerald Woman – What/Who is she?
     - Daisy and Jordan: Focus in on actions/description (find/underline quotes)
   - The Fitzgerald Man – What/Who is he?
     - Nick and Tom: Focus on actions/description (find/underline quotes)

4. **Conflict**: Illusion vs Reality – What is real? What/Who are not?
American Literary Period Timeline

Overview

Native American Literature 1600-1750

Age of Faith
Age of Reason 1750-1800

Faith and or Politically Based Literature

Realism
Regionalism Naturalism 1860-1900

Beginnings of Feminist Literature

Romanticism 1800-1860

Anti-Transcendentalists
Gothic Writers
Dark Romantics

Transcendentalism
Light Romantics

Reaction Against Rationalism
Valued Emotion over Reason

Modernism 1900-1950

Gatsby 1925

Oral Tradition

Reality Based Literature Espouses reality of a specific region of the country
Modernists:  
“sought to capture the disjointedness of modern life in both form and content of their work.”

Characteristics of modernism:  
“Works were constructed out of fragments, omitting the expositions, resolutions, interpretations, transitions, and summaries often used in traditional works.”

Resultant Styles developed in the writing:  
1. **Stream of consciousness** – writer’s attempt to capture the “natural flow of a character’s thoughts”  
   Example of technique: Katherine Anne Porter’s Jilting of Granny Weatherall
2. Themes of works were implied rather than directly stated creating uncertainty for the reader – reader had to draw own conclusions

Example: Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston

3. Symbols and Literary allusions used to suggest theme

Example: Fitzgerald’s Gatsby Allusion to Trimalchio beginning of Chapter 7:

“It was when curiosity about Gatsby was at its highest that the lights in his house failed to go on one Saturday night…and as obscurely as it had begun his career as Trimalchio was over.”

* Trimalchio was a character in the Roman Novel Satyricon who through hard word and perseverance attains wealth; known to give extravagant parties to the nouveau riche (freedmen).

4. Limited point of view used in modernist writing – “believed that reality is shaped by people’s perception of reality”

Example: Fitzgerald’s use of Nick Carraway as first person narrator
Video Clips

Autobiography in Fitzgerald’s Work?

YouTube Clips by parts:

1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_g-0u1wfNc
2. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_liemIeSDk&feature=relmfu
3. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHvmn7Fb05I&playnext=1&list=PLE75B2BA6AF7A9C70&feature=results_video