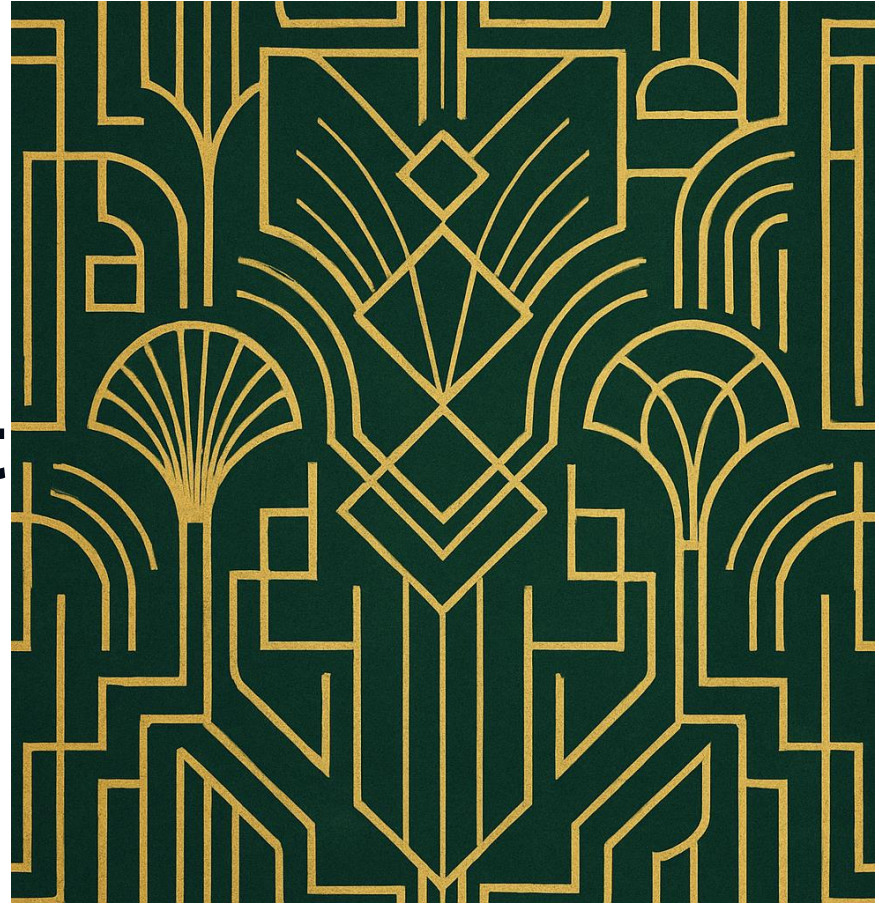


Reading and Exploring The Great Gatsby

VCE English Unit 1 – Area of Study 1

Term 1, 2025



Unit Overview

Outcome: Make personal connections and explore vocabulary, text structures, language features and ideas.

Goals:

- Develop inferential reading skills
- Analyse themes: American Dream, social class, morality, hope
- Employ close reading strategies and annotation
- Compose a personal response essay and oral presentation



Unit Schedule

Overview of weekly focus topics.

Week	Focus
Week 1	Intro & Context
Week 2	Setting & Symbolism
Week 3	Parties & American Dream
Week 4	Memory & Point of View
Week 5	Conflict & Love
Week 6	Consequences & Morality
Week 7	Conclusion & Authorial Intent
Week 8	Refinement & Presentation

Key Themes

- **American Dream & Materialism**
 - Gatsby's rags-to-riches story exposes the illusion of meritocracy.
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- **Social Class & Inequality**
 - Old money versus new money – class divisions remain entrenched.
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- **Hope, Time & Memory**
 - The green light and the past reveal longing and futility.
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- **Moral Decay & Love**
 - Materialism erodes values, and love becomes transactional.
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Reading Strategies & Activities



- Annotate vocabulary, structure and language features
- Identify reading strategies: foreshadowing, figurative language, setting
- Use continuum charts and body outlines to explore character concerns
- Write personal reflections using multi-coloured annotations

Characters & Relationships



- Nick Carraway: narrator; cousin to Daisy; observer of others
- Jay Gatsby: mysterious millionaire; enamoured with Daisy
- Daisy Buchanan: object of Gatsby's dream; married to Tom
- Tom Buchanan: Daisy's husband; arrogant and supercilious
- Jordan Baker: friend of Daisy; professional golfer; Nick's interest
- Myrtle & George Wilson: working-class couple; tragic victims

Symbols & Motifs

- Green Light: hope and unattainable dreams
- Valley of Ashes: moral and social decay
- Eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg: ever-watchful judgement
- Time & Clocks: the past cannot be repeated



Assessment & Outputs

- Personal response essay exploring themes and personal connections
- Oral presentation summarising your ideas and reflections
- Regular journals and exit slips to track understanding
- Use the provided rubric to self-assess and improve

Reflection & Personal Connections



- Which characters or events resonate with you and why?
- How does the novel critique materialism and class?
- In what ways does Gatsby's dream mirror modern aspirations?

Conclusion

- Fitzgerald's novel questions the pursuit of wealth and status.
- Reading strategies empower us to uncover layers of meaning.
- Apply insights from this unit to future areas of study and your own writing.