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**AP Language & Composition**

***The Great Gatsby***

Study Questions – Chapters 4-6

**Chapter 4**

1. Analyze the effect of language in the first sentence and first short paragraph (ending with “crystal glass”). Look carefully.
2. Explain how this comment characterizes Mr. Wolfsheim: “I understand you’re looking for a business gonnegtion.”
3. Explain the significance of Wolfsheim’s cuff buttons.
4. Explain the significance of Jordan’s comment that “the pears were around her neck.”
5. Considering chapter four, what is meant by this comment by Nick: “Then it had not been merely the stars to which he had aspired on that June night. He came alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor.”

**Chapter 5**

1. What atmosphere/feeling is created by the passage beginning “with enchanting murmurs…” ending with “flights of stair.” Cite some examples of language connected to this atmosphere.
2. What do you think of the shirt scene? How does it affect your reaction to Gatsby and Daisy?
3. Explain why “the colossal significance of that light had no vanished forever” and why Gatsby’s “count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.”
4. Explain Nick’s comment about Gatsby’s dream, in the paragraph beginning with “As I went to say goodbye…” and ending with “No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart.” Connect to Nick’s comments in chapter one: “Only Gatsby, --the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction.”

**Chapter 6**

1. Read this quote: “The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. 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.” Look up any unfamiliar words. Explain the following:

* The Platonic conception
* The effect of the Biblical allusion
* The point about the nature of service

1. Analyze the language in the paragraph beginning “But his heart was in a constant, turbulent riot” and ending with “fairy’s wing.” How does the language create a dreamlike world?
2. Explain Gatsby’s attitude toward time.
3. Look at the last three paragraphs, beginning with “One autumn night…”

* Which words contribute to the tone of mysterious excitement established in the first paragraph?
* Explain the concept of “incarnation” in this passage.

1. What is ideal about Gatsby’s dream? What is corrupt?