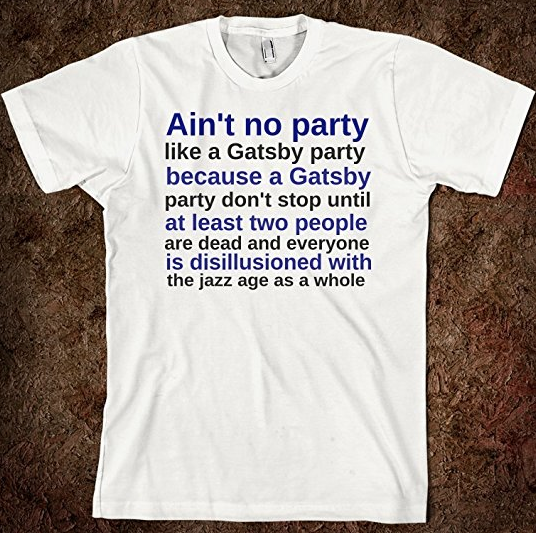
**Great Gatsby Golden Passages** Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Close Reading Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following theme/idea topics in this assignment sheet will help you prepare for our final when we finish the novel.

**ASSIGNMENT: Select one of the following close reading topics and, as you read, copy word for word significant passages onto index cards or a piece of paper. Then briefly explain how this quote influences the overall meaning of the novel (how it ties into your theme). There is no limit to the number of annotations: the more the better. You need to have at least 5. You will turn them in.**

Topic 1: Fitzgerald explores the repercussions of **wealth** in the novel. Look for quotes that demonstrate ideas about riches, people, and the American dream. These passages should show the positive and negative elements wealth has on the characters. Explore how wealth leads characters to be careless in their behavior and treatment of others.

Topic 2: Fitzgerald uses **motifs and symbols** through the novel that are significant to the development of themes. For example, geography plays an important role in defining social divide. Weather is used to reflect human conditions and moods. The green light and the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg are mentioned several times; the meaning changes or signifies different things to different characters and to the reader. Think about the symbolism as you analyze the passages.

Topic 3: Fitzgerald was considered a **spokesman for his generations** when he wrote this in the 1920s. Look for significant passages/quotes that address the morality of the people Fitzgerald was writing about keeping in mind he was a spokesman for his time.

Topic 4: Look for quotes and passages that illuminate the narrator’s **complex perspective**. Nick Carroway is an active participant in the story as well as an observer and reporter of it. Think about if he is a reliable narrator / if we can trust his view on things.

Topic 5: Fitzgerald and his narrator reference the role of **judgement and conscience** in human nature. Look for passages with these references that help define the role of judgment and conscience within the novel.

Topic 6: What is Fitzgerald saying about human **hopes and dreams**? Find and think about significant passages dealing with hopes and dreams.

Topic 7: Characters struggling with **illusion and reality** are profound in this novel. Look for passages that show the effects of illusion reality on individuals and those who surround these individuals.

Topic 8: Shakespeare once said that the only way a **secret** can be kept between two people is if one of them is dead, yet the characters in this novel are quite good at keeping secrets. Look for passages and quotes that capture the true essence of secrets and the power that lies within them.

Topic 9: **Ashes, fire, and** **dust** are recurring motifs in the novel. Look for passages that reference ashes, fire, and dust in any form from candlelight flames to heaps of ashes. Why use these images? What role are they playing?

Topic 10: In the novel, **socio-economic / social status** is not necessarily constant for all characters. Look for passages that reflect the fluidity amongst the classes (change from one social status level to another) of the characters. Be sure to note the character and what change is occurring.

Topic 11: The presence of **the** **past** is significant in the novel. Every character’s past defines them, no matter how hard they try to deny it or no matter how much they try to reclaim it. Look for passages that represent this thematic question: Can the past be repeated?

Topic 12: **Colors** are a motif in the novel, particularly green, white, silver, and gold. Look for passages with color references. Think about the symbolism of colors as you analyze the passage.

Topic 13: Images of **violence** are recurring throughout the novel. Track passages that reference acts of violence. Think about the role of violence not just as plot advancement but as characterization of those who are victims and perpetrators.

Topic 14: **Corruption** is a common theme in the novel and during the 1920’s in the United States. Trace passages that reflect the levels of corruption in the novel – from Jordan’s sportsmanship to Gatsby’s business affairs and associates.

Topic 15: **Time**… Sources say there are over 400 references to time in the novel and approximately 85 uses of the word “time” itself. Although you won’t address all of them, look for passages about time or that contain the word “time.” Think about what this repetition of time illustrates about possible themes in Gatsby.

