

Name _____

Meet the Characters of The Great Gatsby

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Daisy and Tom Buchanan represent the upper class and its moral decay. Daisy symbolizes the allure of wealth and materialism, while Tom embodies arrogance and hypocrisy. Through their actions and choices, Fitzgerald explores the corrupting influence of wealth and social status.
2. Nick Carraway's role as the narrator provides a window into the lives of the other characters and their motivations. His perspective allows readers to gain insight into the complexities of their relationships and the moral dilemmas they face. Nick also serves as a contrast to the characters' immorality with his own integrity.
3. Jay Gatsby represents the American Dream through his rise from poverty to wealth. George Wilson, on the other hand, symbolizes the working class and the disillusionment that can result from unfulfilled dreams. Gatsby's dream is materialistic and unattainable, while George's dream is modest and ultimately tragic.
4. Myrtle Wilson undergoes character development as she becomes increasingly desperate to climb the social ladder. Her pursuit of social status leads her to an affair with Tom Buchanan, resulting in her downfall. Her character illustrates the consequences of sacrificing one's integrity for social advancement.

