

Name _____

Unraveling Jay Gatsby: A Closer Look at the Main Character

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Jay Gatsby's pursuit of the American Dream shapes his character by making him determined, optimistic, and willing to take risks to achieve his goals. He works tirelessly to amass wealth and social status, all driven by the belief that he can win back the love of Daisy Buchanan. This relentless pursuit defines his character as one who is both idealistic and tragic, ultimately meeting a tragic end.
2. Daisy Buchanan plays a central role in Gatsby's life as the object of his love and desire. His love for her fuels his pursuit of the American Dream and motivates his actions throughout the novel. Gatsby's character is shaped by his unwavering devotion to Daisy, making him both idealistic and tragic. His love for Daisy represents the unattainable nature of the American Dream, and it leads him to make questionable choices and sacrifices.
3. The significance of the contrast between illusion and reality in Gatsby's character lies in his ability to create illusions. He presents a carefully crafted image of wealth and success to the world while hiding his true self and his humble background. This contrast adds depth to his character and raises questions about authenticity, identity, and the nature of the American Dream. Gatsby's character is both shaped by the illusions he creates and ultimately undone by them.
4. Gatsby's character reflects the theme of the tragic hero in the novel as he possesses noble intentions and a passionate pursuit of his dream. His determination to achieve success and win back Daisy is admirable, but his tragic downfall evokes sympathy from readers. His character serves as a cautionary tale about the challenges and sacrifices one may face in the relentless pursuit of the American Dream, highlighting the tragic consequences of his actions.

