

The Great Gatsby Free Response Journal Assignment

In order to better understand and appreciate a novel, it's beneficial to interact with the text by measuring its events against your own experiences. You can also learn from the emotions that a novel evokes within you. To record this process, you will be keeping a Free Response Journal (FRJ) in a notebook.

As you are reading, take the time to jot down quotations or descriptions of events. Try to be as specific as possible when you are making these annotations (page numbers, specific descriptors, etc.) because your FRJs will function as a jumping-off-point for another assignment in this unit.

You should allow some or all of the following entry points to enhance your reflection:

- ✚ **Quotes**—Jot down any quotes that you find to be significant, relevant, and/or interesting

- ✚ **Art**—Incorporate your own drawings or insert external artwork if you find it relevant to something that you have come across in the reading or you are simply inspired by a particular image/passage. Feel free to be creative because the FRJ is your space to really familiarize yourself with the text.

- ✚ **Words**—This assignment does not require you to use correct grammar or complex sentence construction. Rather, I would like for you to feel free to write about what comes to mind as you read the text.

- ✚ **Questions**—If you encounter words or references you don't understand, write them down. If you think you don't understand a character's actions or ideas, or if you find yourself confused with the plot, note your confusion in your journal and bring it up in class discussion. Questions lead to understanding, and we can help each other make sense of these texts together!

- ✚ **Self-Reflection**—Note your emotional reactions to the text. Feel free to write what comes to mind when you read the text. Do you find yourself relating to a character or an experience? How are your ideas about the main themes evolving and transforming through reading and class discussion?

Directions: Use whatever formats help you to get your thoughts on paper. For example, sketches, diagrams, charts, timelines (or plot lines).

Please make a minimum of one entry per chapter in your FRJ (at least 9 total entries). Each entry should address a different thought or series of thoughts that arise as you read. Each entry should take up least **three-quarters of the page**. Do not simply copy a long passage from the novel; each entry should be mostly comprised of your original thinking. If you choose to express your thoughts through drawings or charts, please write at least four sentences to explain your entry. I will collect journals at the beginning of the school year.