The Great Gatsby

Ch. 1 – Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Summary Chapter 1:

We meet our narrator. First thing he does is pass along some of his father's advice: "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (1.2). We learn that our narrator is non-judgmental. As a result, people tell him their life st

ories. We find out that he is "a Carraway," which apparently means that he's got wealth and class. And he went to Yale. Ooh, fancy. This Carraway fellow introduces us to the setting: New York City and the twin villages of West Egg and East Egg in Long Island. Please note that West Egg, where Carraway lives, is not as fancy-shmancy as East Egg. But it's still pretty fancy-shmancy compared to the rest of the world. On this West Egg, Nick Carraway lives next to a huge mansion inhabited by a mysterious Mr. Gatsby. More on him later. By the way, Nick Carraway is "bond man.” In other words, he's a stockbroker/ financier type. Nick heads over to East Egg to have dinner with Daisy, his second cousin once removed, and her husband, Tom Buchanan, an old college buddy.

 The Buchanans have tons of money, and Nick likes to tell us all about it. We see that Tom is a rather large and "aggressive" former football player. In other words, this guy is not the sensitive type. We then meet two women dressed in white – Daisy, of course, and her friend, Jordan Baker. Daisy and Tom have a child, who spends the majority of her two-year-old time sleeping in the other room. How convenient. When, in friendly cocktail conversation, Nick casually mentions Gatsby, Daisy gets particularly interested. In general, Daisy spends Chapter 1 being happy and excited about life and having a bruise that Tom accidentally gave her. The following is a rather dramatic scene: Tom gets a phone call, Daisy freaks out and goes to yell at him, and Jordan reveals that Tom is messing around on the side. Not only that, but he's messing around with a woman tactless enough to call his house all the time to ask what's up. Daisy comes back and talks about when her daughter was born: Tom wasn't there, and she wished that her daughter would be a "beautiful little fool"—i.e., too dumb to know any better. It turns out that Jordan is an athlete (golf). Nick feels like he's heard about her before, but he can't remember the story.

 Daisy then jokes about Jordan and Nick getting together. When Nick finally gets home to West Egg, he notices that his neighbor, Mr. Gatsby, is out chilling on the lawn and maybe contemplating the addition of some plastic flamingoes to his "blue lawn." Why is the lawn always blue? Good question. Except that Gatsby is not just chilling and thinking about flamingoes. He stares across the water at a lone green light before stretching his arm out towards it oh-so-symbolically.

**Questions:**

1. Considering the description given of Nick Carraway (narrator), why was he always compared to a politician in college?
2. How did the Carraway family gain it’s wealth (hint: father still runs it)?
3. How does Nick know Daisy and Tom Buchanan?
4. Why does Daisy like to speak in a murmur?
5. Who calls Tom while the group is enjoying dinner? How does this reflect on Daisy’s character?

Quotes: Respond in at least 3 sentences

1. What does this quote show you about this time period? What does it tell you about Tom?

**Tom Buchanan**: “The idea is if we don’t look out the white race will be utterly submerged. It’s all scientific stuff; it’s been proved.” (pg. 13)

1. How is Daisy’s wish for her daughter a reflection of her own life?

“I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool-that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.” (pg. 17)

Theme Analysis:

Write a one paragraph response, with two pieces of text support, analyzing/generating a theme for *marriage and wealth together* for chapter 1.