



## IB ENGLISH 12: *THE GREAT GATSBY* ESSAY ASSIGNMENT CAROLYN P. HENLY MEADOWBROOK HS 2006-2007

*Directions: Choose a photograph which you believe embodies one of the important aspects of F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. Write an essay in which you BOTH: demonstrate the importance of the aspect you chose to the meaning of the novel AND demonstrate that the photograph conveys the same idea. You may use one of the photographs I supplied in the PowerPoint presentation "Photographs & Themes," which is available on the student share server AND on my website.*

[http://home.comcast.net/~StratfordUK2007/English/Photographs\\_Themes.ppt](http://home.comcast.net/~StratfordUK2007/English/Photographs_Themes.ppt)

*(You can download a free PowerPoint player if you do not have PowerPoint on your machine at home.) If you prefer, you can choose a photograph from any other source, so long as you credit the source and provide a copy of the photograph in the essay.*

### DETAILS:

- ☞ The paper must be between 1000 and 1500 words; however, remember that shorter virtually always means insufficiently developed.
- ☞ The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and submitted to TurnItIn.com.
- ☞ The rough draft is due Friday, 3/2 for peer review.
- ☞ Due with your rough draft: please supply a paragraph explaining why you chose to open the essay with the first sentence that you wrote.
- ☞ Copy whatever photograph you use into your paper at the appropriate point (where you first introduce it). Include a bibliographic reference on your works cited page (which will also include a reference to *Gatsby*, of course!). The citation for any photograph I put in the PowerPoint is:  
Photographer's Last Name, Photographer's First Name. "Title of Photo." *National Geographic*. <<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>>. 27 February 2007.  
*Example (first photo in PowerPoint):*  
Littlehales, Bates. "Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico." *National Geographic*  
<<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>>.

### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- ☞ Do NOT select any photograph that represents a literal, factual, or plot-based element. You are looking for theme, style, characterization, function of setting, function of narrative, etc.!
- ☞ Select the aspect of the novel that you wish to discuss first and THEN select the photograph. You may wish to look through a bunch of photographs to see if they spur any idea, but you'll be better off if you have something interesting and valuable to you to say about the novel than if you try to force something to fit a photo.
- ☞ There are MANY, MANY different choices of topic possible: setting, character, repeated elements, narrative perspective, pacing, use of time, and on and on. THINK for a good while before you choose, and choose something that is truly of individual interest to YOU.
- ☞ You might find it useful to read a couple of GOOD critical resources about the novel to help you think about the WIDE range of potential topics. I have made a class on Questia and

stored a list of suggested readings. Most are collections of essays; just peruse a few—read the first two or three screens of them and see if they spark any ideas for you. If so, read more.

- ↪ To access those materials: login to Questia, choose “My Classes.” I have added you to my class and it should show up for you. If not, you will have to find my class; the class number is: 3347; the password is *Gatsby*. If you look in the *Gatsby* assignment, you will be able to go to the resources associated with that.
- ↪ If you wish to bring or send me your thesis statement for review prior to completing the draft, I will be happy to review it!
- ↪ This is essentially a comparison essay (you do not have to worry about contrasts in this case), only in this case you are comparing a photograph to the novel rather than comparing two novels.
- ↪ You can organize this paper in whatever way makes the best sense for the thesis you are trying to prove. If that means, in this case discussing the novel first and then the photograph—or vice versa—in what is essentially a block-by block format, then you can do that, with these two caveats: the thesis **MUST** mention both the book and the photograph. You must weave the setup from the first work into the discussion of the second work so that we don’t lose sight of why you are discussing the second work! If you can swing a true point-by-point, so much the better! But the dual nature of the task may, in this case, make that unworkable. Don’t force it if it’s confusing.