**11th grade Honors American Literature**

**Close Reading**

***The Great Gatsby:* Chapter Four and Five**

It was dark now, and as we dipped under a little bridge I put my arm around Jordan’s golden shoulder and drew her toward me and asked her to dinner. Suddenly I wasn’t thinking of Daisy and Gatsby any more but of this clean, hard, limited person who dealt in universal skepticism and who leaned back jauntily just within the circle of my arm. A phrase began to beat in my ears with a sort of heady excitement: ‘There are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and the tired.’

‘And Daisy ought to have something in her life,’ murmured Jordan to me. ‘Does she want to see Gatsby?’ ‘She’s not to know about it. Gatsby doesn’t want her to know. You’re just supposed to invite her to tea.’

We passed a barrier of dark trees, and then the facade of Fifty-ninth Street, a block of delicate pale light, beamed down into the park. Unlike Gatsby and Tom Buchanan I had no girl whose disembodied face floated along the dark cornices and blinding signs and so I drew up the girl beside me, tightening my arms. Her wan, scornful mouth smiled and so I drew her up again, closer, this time to my face.

1. Diction: UNDERLINE all repeated words. List words that seem significant to you in terms of tone or theme.

2. Imagery: Highlight imagery and figures of speech (metaphor, simile, personification). List any patterns or groupings of images.

3. Syntax: describe the syntax, note sentence length, construction, patterns, punctuation, and rhythms. Consider how the syntax contributes to tone and theme. 4. Sound devices: List any examples of alliteration, assonance, internal rhyme, consonance, and onomatopoeia.

5. What point of view is the passage told in? List the evidence.

6. --------- Put a dotted line where the passage could be broken into sections.

7. Use arrows to connect and parts that seem related.

8 Tone: Describe the tone of this passage using specific examples from the passage to support your assertion.

9 Theme: What does this conversation represent? Consider the evidence you have collected in marking your passage.

**Excerpt from Chapter 5**

As I went over to say goodbye I saw that the expression of bewilderment had come back into Gatsby’s face, as though a faint doubt had occurred to him as to the quality of his present happiness. Almost five years! There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams—not through her own fault but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything. He had thrown himself into it with a creative passion, adding to it all the time, decking it out with every bright feather that drifted his way. No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart. As I watched him he adjusted himself a little, visibly. His hand took hold of hers and as she said something low in his ear he turned toward her with a rush of emotion. I think that voice held him most with its fluctuating, feverish warmth because it couldn’t be over-dreamed—that voice was a deathless song.

1. Diction: UNDERLINE all repeated words. List words that seem significant to you in terms of tone or theme.

2. Imagery: Highlight imagery and figures of speech (metaphor, simile, personification). List any patterns or groupings of images.

3. Syntax: describe the syntax, note sentence length, construction, patterns, punctuation, and rhythms. Consider how the syntax contributes to tone and theme. 4. Sound devices: List any examples of alliteration, assonance, internal rhyme, consonance, and onomatopoeia.

5. What point of view is the passage told in? List the evidence.

6. --------- Put a dotted line where the passage could be broken into sections.

7. Use arrows to connect and parts that seem related.

8 Tone: Describe the tone of this passage using specific examples from the passage to support your assertion.

Theme: What does Nick’s commentary about Gatsby and Daisy’s reunion represent? Consider the evidence you have collected in marking your passage.