

Themes – Decadence and Materialism

Use this sheet to collect quotations about the theme explored in the central box.



Decadent Tendencies– Key Quotations

Decadence and Materialism

Linked to the idea of the failing American Dream is the notion that decadence and materialism become the great vices of the Jazz Age. Fitzgerald's descriptions of the characters and settings, for example, are laden with allusions to the decadent excess and importance of materialism at this time. This aspect of the novel reflects its time: a growing capacity amongst Americans to own objects and develop wealth

Obsession with Material Objects - Key Quotations

Decadence and Materialism - Key Quotations

Themes

Listed below are a number of aspects of the narrative that explore the idea of Decadence and Materialism. Complete a chart for each one.

- Mobility and automobiles
- Tom Buchanan's past
- Gatsby's parties
- The New York sequences

MOBILITY AND AUTOMOBILES & THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

TOM BUCHANAN'S PAST & THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

GATSBY'S PARTIES & THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM

QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE NEW YORK SEQUENCES & THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM?

Themes and character

(Enlarge to A3)

1. Each of the characters in *The Great Gatsby* have either an obsession with material objects, or are, in some way, decadent. Complete the chart below to show how each of the characters are materialistic and / or decadent.

CHARACTERS & DECADENCE AND MATERIALISM		
CHARACTER	WHAT IS THEIR PRETENSION?	QUOTATION

➔ **Practice Exam Response Question**

'*The Great Gatsby* is about more than just the decadence of the characters; it is a showcase for Fitzgerald's learned decadence from the heady days of the New York Jazz Age.'

With close reference to the text, discuss the validity of this statement.