

Themes – Ego

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

<p>How characters construct their egos – Key Quotations</p>	<p>Ego</p> <p>The title of the novel immediately locates the idea of ego as central to the novel. The ironic idea of the 'Great' Gatsby suggests to us a sense in which the characters of the novel are judged and their status constructed by others. However, there is another element to the novel which is interested in how the characters view, and nurture their own egos: Tom Buchanan, for example, is a man who has a sense of his own strength and masculinity, but which is fed by his successes of many years before. And so, ego becomes one of the key tensions in the text.</p>	<p>Ego - Key Quotations</p> <p>Characters and their Egos – Key Quotations</p>
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Themes

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

- Gatsby and his past.
- Tom Buchanan and his masculinity
- The image of Daisy Buchanan

GATSBY AND HIS PAST & THE THEME OF EGO		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME EGO?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

TOM BUCHANAN AND HIS MASCULINITY & THE THEME OF EGO

QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF EGO?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE IMAGE OF DAISY BUCHANAN & THE THEME OF EGO

QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF EGO?

Themes and character

(Enlarge to A3)

Each characters' ego plays a significant role in their fate during the novel. For each of them, complete the table below to show how this is the case.

CHARACTERS & EGO		
CHARACTER	HOW DOES THEIR EGO DETERMINE THEIR FATE?	QUOTATION

➔ **Practice Exam Response Question**

'In each case the egos of the different characters conflict with the social propriety that governs their society'.

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