

Themes – The American Dream

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



The Failure of the American Dream – Key Quotations

The American Dream

Fitzgerald's novel depicts a very particular moment of doubt in the America of the time: the high-minded and admirable ideals of the Declaration of Independence, for the first time, clashed with the realities of contemporary American life. The growing consumerism of 1920s America in which material objects came to supplant the value placed upon ideals and moral aspirations is one of the novel's central concerns.

The Characters' Views about the American Dream

The American Dream & Hope – Key Quotations

Themes

Listed below are a number of aspects of the narrative that explore the idea of the American Dream.

Complete a chart for each one.

- Gatsby's relationships with others
- The communities of East & West Egg
- New York Society
- The new-found Consumerism of the 1920s

GATSBY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS & THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE COMMUNITIES OF EAST AND WEST EGG & THE AMERICAN DREAM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

NEW YORK SOCIETY & THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE NEW-FOUND CONSUMERISM OF THE 1920S & THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Themes and character

(Enlarge to A3)

Each of the characters in *The Great Gatsby* possess their own sense of the American Dream. For each of them, complete the table below to show how they perceive the American Dream.

CHARACTERS & THE AMERICAN DREAM		
CHARACTER	WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN DREAM MEAN TO THEM?	QUOTATION

➔ **Practice Exam Response Question**

‘In the Great Gatsby, the American Dream, represents a moral barometer for the people of East and West Egg’

With close reference to the text, discuss how far you think this is reflected in Fitzgerald’s novel.