

The Great Gatsby

POETRY WORKSHOP

Option One:

For your poetry project, choose one of the lines provided (or find one of your own from the novel) and write a poem that deals with issues of consumerism, materialism, greed, wealth, or power. Your poem may be as long as you want, **but you must incorporate at least one line verbatim into your poem.** In other words, you must use one line from the list below exactly as it appears in the novel. While you can use this line as the title of the poem, it has to also be used in the poem itself. See the example poem.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,...just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (1).

"With the influence of the dress her personality had also undergone a change" (30).

"She looked at me and laughed pointlessly" (32).

"I thought he knew something about breeding, but he wasn't fit to lick my shoe" (34).

"And I hope she'll be a fool – that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool" (17).

"It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life" (48).

"Her voice is full of money" (120).

Example:

"Pointless"
I confessed I was unsure of myself.
Was I crossing a line?
I wanted her to know. She had to know.
She looked at me and laughed pointlessly.
She laughed wistfully.
She laughed helplessly.
I knew she would never understand.

Option Two:

For your poetry project, choose one of the lines provided (or find one of your own from the novel) and write a poem that deals with issues of consumerism, materialism, greed, wealth, or power. Your poem should be as many lines as there are words in the quote. Each word of the quote should begin a new line of the poem. See the example poem below.

“Inside, the crimson room bloomed with light” (17).

“Then it was all true” (67).

“And as I walked on I was lonely no longer” (4).

“That was a way she had” (9).

“You didn’t look so interested” (108).

“You can’t repeat the past” (110).

“I’m delighted to see you” (101).

Example:

“Had you seen him lately?”
Had enough of the poor person’s life?
You need to work hard and try to be
Seen for the person you are or want to become, because you want to impress
Him and let him know that
Lately, you’ve had enough of the poor person’s life.

All entries must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13th.
Late entries will not be accepted.

Please email all entries to cnartker@monroeccc.edu, with “Poetry Contest” in the subject line. Along with their poems, students should include their names.

Winners will be announced, and prizes will be distributed, on April 21st.

Workshop facilitators:

Carrie E. Nartker	Misty Braden
Alex Pankiewicz	Ryan Lehr

All quotes taken from: F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, New York: Scribner, 2004.