

Directions: This creative writing assignment will challenge you to write in the distinctive prose style of F. Scott Fitzgerald by filling in a missing scene from *The Great Gatsby*. Your missing scene must include some action as well as Nick's interior commentary on the action. Your scene should also include some dialogue and/or writing in the voice of another character. Beyond that, you'll be granted the freedom to use your creative imagination! Please follow the 3 steps below. . . .

1) Step One: Choose a missing scene from Fitzgerald's novel that you'd like to write. Here are two examples of missing scenes which you may choose from:

1. Write the missing scene in which Daisy Fay reads a letter from Gatsby on the night before her wedding (76). Nick reports that Daisy reads the letter and that its contents cause her to "cry"; but he also reports that Daisy "didn't say another word" (76). What does Gatsby's letter say? How might the letter stir Daisy's memories, thoughts, and emotions? Finally, what enables Daisy to push aside her feelings for Gatsby and get married to Tom?
2. Write the missing scene in which Gatsby is reunited with Daisy in Nick's living room (88). In the first moments of their reunion, Gatsby and Daisy interact in a stiff and awkward way. So Nick steps outside for "half an hour" to give them some privacy (88). When Nick steps back into his house, Gatsby and Daisy are glowing with "well-being" and "joy" (89). What happens to catalyze this change? How do Gatsby and Daisy rediscover a sense of comfort and connection? If Nick were to have stayed indoors, what might he have witnessed?

2) Step Two: Make a list of the features that distinguish F. Scott Fitzgerald's prose style. A list of stylistic attributes has been started for you below (followed by exemplary passages). Please add a few more features of Fitzgerald's writing style next to the bullet points at the end of the list.

- **long sentences that build to a crescendo:** "Out of the corner of his eye Gatsby saw that the blocks of the sidewalk really formed a ladder and mounted to a secret place above the trees — he could climb to it, if he climbed alone, and once there he could suck on the pap of life, gulp down the incomparable milk of wonder" (110).
- **alliteration that reinforces meaning:** "He stayed there two weeks, dismayed at its ferocious indifference to the drums of his destiny, to destiny itself, and despising the janitor's work with which he was to pay his way through" (99).
- **oxymorons that describe characters:** "Her throat, full of aching, grieving beauty, told only of her unexpected joy" (89).
- **evocative similes:** "Then he kissed her. At his lips' touch she blossomed for him like a flower and the incarnation was complete" (111).

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3) Step Three: Now write! Make your missing scene come alive by using the same stylistic techniques employed by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I look forward to reading what you write!