

Power And Gaze Answer Key

1. Daisy is described primarily in terms of **appearance and voice**, emphasizing her allure and charm rather than her intellect. A feminist critic might argue this reduces her to an object of male desire, reflecting the limited roles available to women.
2. Tom is portrayed as a man of **old money privilege**, powerful not because of personal merit but inherited wealth. A Marxist critic would highlight how his class status grants him dominance and arrogance.
3. Daisy is admired and objectified but lacks control. Tom holds **structural power** (wealth, status, physical strength). Their dynamic shows gender and class inequality: Daisy's influence is fleeting and aesthetic, while Tom's is material and enduring.
4. Nick's descriptions romanticize Daisy's charm and reinforce Tom's dominance. His perspective may subtly uphold societal norms by admiring Daisy's beauty and Tom's strength rather than questioning the inequalities.
5. Through a feminist lens, this passage highlights the way Daisy is reduced to her physical traits and voice, showing how women are valued for charm rather than substance. Her identity is tied to how men perceive her, suggesting she has little agency. Meanwhile, Tom's wealth and athletic power secure his position in society, leaving Daisy in a dependent role. This imbalance reflects the broader gender dynamics of the 1920s, where women's voices carried allure but limited authority. Nick's focus on Daisy's beauty reinforces the societal objectification that a feminist critic would challenge.

Teacher Notes

- This activity encourages **higher-order analysis**, pushing Grade 12 students to apply **literary theory** to a canonical text.
- Accept diverse interpretations as long as students **anchor responses in textual evidence**.
- Extension: Have students write a second short paragraph using the *other* lens, then compare how meaning shifts depending on perspective.