

## Bridging Gatsby to Today Answer Key

### Sample Responses

#### Materialism

- Gatsby Example: Gatsby throws lavish parties filled with strangers.
- 1920s Insight: Wealth and possessions were seen as status symbols in the Jazz Age.
- Modern Connection: Social media “flex culture” and influencers highlight material possessions like cars, clothes, and luxury vacations as a sign of success.

#### Love

- Gatsby Example: Gatsby devotes his life to winning Daisy back.
- 1920s Insight: Love is complicated by social class and appearances.
- Modern Connection: People still struggle with relationships shaped by wealth, reputation, or social pressure, such as dating influenced by lifestyle expectations.

#### Class Division

- Gatsby Example: The divide between East Egg (old money) and West Egg (new money).
- 1920s Insight: Old wealth looked down on self-made wealth, keeping rigid social boundaries.
- Modern Connection: Today, income inequality and elite social circles continue to separate people despite apparent opportunities for mobility.