

Morality in the Jazz Age Answer Key

Answers will vary, but here are model responses for teachers to guide evaluation.

1. Moral Responsibility

- Agree: Tom and Daisy retreat into wealth and let others suffer the consequences.
- Disagree: Gatsby's own inability to accept reality contributes most to his downfall.

2. The American Dream

- Agree: Gatsby rises from poverty to wealth, embodying ambition and hope.
- Disagree: Gatsby's dream is corrupt because it relies on crime and obsession with Daisy.

3. Corruption of Wealth

- Agree: Characters like Tom, Daisy, and Gatsby show how money breeds carelessness or dishonesty.
- Disagree: Wealth isn't inherently corrupt—personal choices create the problems.

4. Nick's Role

- Agree: He judges others but still joins their parties and benefits from their world.
- Disagree: Nick stands apart and offers the clearest moral voice in the story.

5. Love and Illusion

- Agree: Gatsby loves the *idea* of Daisy more than Daisy herself.
- Disagree: Gatsby truly loves Daisy, and his dream only becomes an illusion when she fails him.