

Worksheet on *The Great Gatsby*: Characters

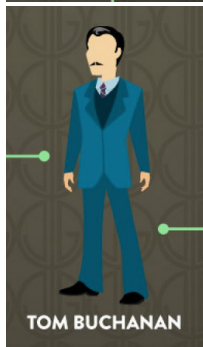
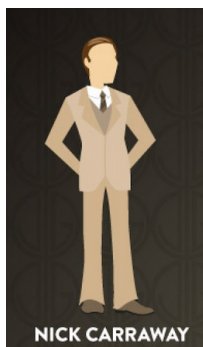
Make notes in your group on the character that you are assigned.
Include words and phrases from the book as well as page numbers.

1 Nick Carraway

2 Daisy (Fay) Buchanan

3 Tom Buchanan

4 Jordan Baker



Age and Appearance

Background

Personality

Read the model paragraph about a character from *The Great Gatsby*.

Phrases
"quoted"
from the
novel to
support the
claim in the
topic
sentence.

A
concluding
sentence
looks
toward the
next topic:
Tom's
control over
other
characters.

In *The Great Gatsby*, Tom Buchanan represents the wealthy upper-class of America. Not only is he rich; he is competitive and controlling of the people around him. Although Tom is "enormously wealthy," as Nick tell us (Fitzgerald 6), Tom doesn't seem to work much. Indeed, he and Daisy appear to be members of the idle rich: those who do not work but live off of their money. As Nick writes, the couple "drifted here and there unrestfully wherever people played polo or were rich together" (6). Tom spends most of his time giving his opinions, judging and controlling others. With "shining arrogant eyes" and "the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward" (6), Tom displays "paternal contempt" for the people he meets. Nick reports that many men in college "hated his guts" (7). Moreover, Tom is often described in the novel as physically powerful and violent. He has "enormous power" and a "cruel body" (6-7). Daisy, whose finger Tom has bruised, calls him "a brute of man, a great big, hulking physical specimen of a --" (10). When Nick has dinner at Tom and Daisy's mansion, Nick says that "Tom Buchanan compelled me from the room as though he were moving a checker piece to another square" (9). In this scene, Nick is treated like a mere token in Tom's game. This manipulation by Tom extends to others, including George Wilson, the owner of the car repair shop in the "valley of ashes."

Topic
sentence(s)
introduce the
idea of the
paragraph:
Who is the
character and
what kind of
person is he /
she?

Page
numbers
from the text
locate the
information:

(Author's
name pg. #)

A. Notice the use of tag phrases to identify the source of information or direct quotation of words and phrases: *Nick says* / *Daisy calls him a* / *as Nick tells us* / *Nick says that*

B. Writing topic sentences about characters. Look at the example sentences below.

1. Nick is passive and slow-thinking. / Nick is judgmental but kind. (Adjectives describe his personality.)
2. Nick is a kind and considerate man. (Noun ("man") as predicate describes personality.)
3. Tom Buchanan is a rich man. He thinks being rich shows his high status. (Two sentences: status / typical behaviour)
4. Nick is a quiet man. He tends to withhold his judgements of people. (Typical behaviour: "tend to" / adverbs such as "sometimes," "often," or "always.")
5. Nick is a quiet man who tends to withhold his judgements of people. (4 above combined into one sentence.)
6. Tom Buchanan is a cruel man who cares little about anything besides himself and his money. (Two sentences combined.)
7. Daisy is a flighty, high-strung woman who is always trying to get attention from people, especially her husband Tom. (Dropping "and" between adjectives. Use a comma.)
8. Nick Carraway, the narrator of the novel, is a quiet and conservative man who does not judge the people he meets, or so he says. (Identify character by role: "narrator.")
9. Nick Carraway, the narrator of the novel, is a quiet, somewhat conservative man who does not judge the people he meets, or so he says.
10. Daisy is a flighty, high-strung woman who seems to want attention from people, especially her husband Tom. (Softening adjectives with "somewhat." / Show appearances with "seems to" or "seems to be.")

See the HP for more details: <http://www.chukyo-ei.org/uslh2/?page_id=157>