

Socratic Seminar Supplemental Materials

Critical Questions Discussion Preparation

1. From your reading, **write down at least one quote or observation related to poverty or economic disparity**. Be sure to include the **book title** and **page number**, and add **quotation marks**. The
2. **Write at least one paragraph reflecting on this quote**. First, explain the **context** of the quote (What is the situation in the book? What is the author/narrator/speaker talking about in the rest of the passage?), then explain your **thoughts** on the quote. *Why did it stand out to you? What did it make you think? What did it make you wonder?*
3. **Create a discussion question inspired by this observation**. You should genuinely wonder about this question, a question that can spark an interesting, meaningful, and deep discussion that can lead to new insights, exploration, and further questions. For help with creating questions try adapting a question stemming from one of these resources
 - [Depth & Complexity Icons](#)
 - [Questions for Discussion and Writing](#)

Share your discussion question and your thoughts with your small group or discussion board.

Example Discussion Comment & Question

Quotes from *Sula* by Toni Morrison:

- 118-119: "She had no center, no speck around which to grow."
- 157: "when he looked at her face he had also seen the skull beneath, and thinking she saw it too—knew it was there and was afraid—he tried to think of something to say to comfort her, something to stop the hurt from spilling out of her eyes. So he had said "always," so she would not have to be afraid of the change—the falling away of skin, the drip and slide of blood, and the exposure of bone underneath. He had said "always" to convince her, assure her, of permanency."

Reflection: These two quotes—and many others—reveal Sula as a person whose depth of character, intellectualism and talent was unfortunately never recognized and nurtured. It makes me think of how many children grow up without the supports in their environment that would have helped them channel their passion, creativity and intelligence into endeavors that allow for lifelong discovery and growth.

Question: *What kinds of supports might have helped a child like Sula reach her full potential as a highly intelligent, caring and independent human being?*

A Man of Two Faces by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Allisson-

Quote: “Smoke and fire shroud your town and city or countryside. You drive, run, walk, or catch a bus to the border or the sea. Only then having fled, hoping to leave, or making it across the border or the sea, on foot, on boat, on raft, on truck....” (**A Man of Two Faces**) Pg#24

Reflection: In the book the situation Nguyen is describing is how refugees come to a new country. Nguyen goes on to speak of how refugees are seen by society and other Americans. This quote stood out to me because it’s very descriptive about the journey of refugees coming to a new country, putting the reader in a state where we can imagine what these refugees experience. It made me think about the journey not only to get to a new country but how refugees assimilate in a place they’ve never been to, having to familiarize themselves all over again with a new place. Also made me wonder what caused them to flee. Nguyen describes smoke and fire being the cause which makes me wonder if what caused them seeking refuge was a war.

Question: How can becoming a refugee increase the risk of coming into poverty or experiencing economic disparity?

Martin & Meditations on the South Valley by Jimmy Santiago Baca

Donovan- “ I lived in the streets,
slept at friends houses, spooned
pozole and wiped up the last frijoles with tortilla
from my plate. Each day my hands hurt for something to have,
and a voice in me yearned to sing” Martin & Meditation on the South Valley (Pg.20)
This quote stood out to me because it portrays what Martin went through before being a successful person and how he would have to depend on others, as well as literally being homeless because he didn't have enough to live on his own and he would take advantage of any opportunity that he had to live. The situation in this book just makes me think about how hard it must have been for him to live in the streets and sleep at friends houses. It also helps me realize that not everyone is in the position where they can have whatever they want whenever they want, living this way is very depressing and people shouldn't judge because not everyone grew up in the position where they would have whatever they want, but if those who live like that have that mindset where

they can make it and be successful they will make it out, i say this because in the book it says “ Each day my hands hurt for something to have, and a voice in me yearned to sing” this goes to show that if people have a motivational mindset then everything will turn out the way they’ve always wanted it to. This makes me wonder if people who live like this have others to help or do they just have to grow up and make it out on their own. This quote caught my attention because it just shows how not everyone is able to have the same opportunities as everyone. If you were given a chance, how would you fix poverty and homelessness?

Isaiah Chappell -“It’s the process of making do, of the life I’ve lived between breakdowns and break-ups, that has made life worth living. I could not bear a life with everything perfect.”

The quote reflects a profound understanding of human experience, emphasizing the value of resilience and the beauty found in imperfection. This quote stood out to me because it encapsulates a universal truth about the human condition. question: “How do our struggles and imperfections shape our identities, and in what ways can embracing these aspects of our lives lead to a more fulfilling existence?” context martin the author and narrator i complaining how his care is too much to take care of and sometime he cant even pay bills or even rent

Diego- “I lived in the streets,
Slept at friends’ houses, spooned
Pozole and wiped up the last frijoles with tortilla
From my plate.” Martin & Meditation on the South Valley (Pg.20)

Context: Martins runs away from the orphanage due to him being scared. After that he was homeless, didn’t have food, having trouble sleeping, tired, and scared. He was also hungry, everytime he got a chance to eat with either a friend he would take advantage of the opportunity. This quote stood out to me because it really shows us how he grew up as a kid and what he had to go through, throughout his life as a kid. This may be the reason he thinks the way he does and has certain perspectives on certain topics, because has lived and experienced a lot growing up.

Question: Do our struggles as a kid affect us a lot growing up or not in making decisions by ourselves?

Does everyone go through the same struggles? Is it only certain people? How can someone fix it or try to overcome it?

Yaritza- **Quote:** "The next day I ran away,
Drifted barrios of Burque,
Stealing food from grocery stores,
Sleeping in churches, and every dark dawn,
Walking and walking and walking,
My eyes shaded with fear and my life
Dimmed to a small shadow"

Martin & Meditations on the South Valley By Jimmy Santiago Baca. (Page 18.)

Context: Martin had run away from home with fear from the "orphanage" that he was in.
Question:

- Martin & Meditations on the South Valley By Jimmy Santiago Baca. (Page 19.)
This quote

Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond

Wesley Angel: "Poverty is pain, physical pain. It is in the backaches of home health aides and certified nursing assistants, who bend their bodies to hoist the old and sick out of beds and off toilets; it is in the feet and knees of cashiers made to stand while taking orders and ringing up our items.." (pg. 14)

Matthew Desmond thoroughly explains this idea of poverty and he relates it to the physical pain of the backaches of the people who have to deal with the elderly and other jobs where people have to suffer to still be in the lower class. I choose this quote because I completely agree with Matthew on how he explains the physical pain of others in their jobs because a lot of people get hurt or seriously injured and that could stick with them for the rest of their life. This quote makes me think about how some people break their backs to help others to remain in the lower middle class and others out there doing the bare minimum to be wealthy.

Is there a solution to the problem of prejudice in poverty and will we ever get rid of discrimination in our society?

Andres Morejon: "Poverty is about money, of course, but it is also relentless piling on of problems" (pg 13).

Mathew Desmond states this quote after telling in his book the real life story of Crystal Bayberry, a woman troubled with problems since a child, these problems eventually piled on and she ended up in the streets homeless, and working as a prostitute. Here it is shown that poverty is

not obtained due to lacking income/money but also from problems lived through one's life. The constant piling of problems if not solved become too much and makes it almost impossible to start over. The quote stands out as most of the time we are led to believe that poverty is just a monetary issue but it goes further than that. Poverty is the decisions we make and how we react to problems and if we make the right decisions we might be able to thrive but if we choose wrongly we might never return back to the beginning.

Is poverty really about the type of problems we have that eventually pile up, or how we affront and take care of these problems?

Francisco: ***"Black and Hispanic Americans are twice as likely to be poor, compared to white Americans, owing not only to the country's racial legacies but also to present-day discrimination."*** (*Poverty, By America Page 22*)

Throughout this chapter, Matthew Desmond is explaining what poverty truly is. He dives further into the true colors of poverty, not just being an economic issue but one that causes pain, illness, shame, loss of liberty, and so much more. Near the end, he also shows that poverty is not an equalizer. It is not felt the same by different people: Whites are not only less likely to be in poverty, they are also less poor than Black and Hispanic people in poverty. That is when Desmond mentions this quote and lays bare the inequality that poverty is.

Is there any way the problem of discrimination in poverty can be solved? Can discrimination in our society ever be erased?

Fanny: "The history of the world, my sweet— is who gets eaten and who gets to eat." (*Poverty, By America pg. 42*)

This quote stood out because it says people benefit from poverty. This quote is directed to the tribes, families, and clans that were enslaved, and taken away from their homes, to benefit the rich, meaning that the rich took those who were "weak" for their benefit to get richer. This quote made me realize that this world involves people to work so that others can eat, and involves people's lives so that many others can live, this shows how this world works, and how history came to be. This quote made me question this world and wonder, "Why does poverty have to give people food, is there another way to do it?"

Da'Von: "We are much richer than citizens of other countries, and yet, the dominant mood of the middle and upper classes are of worry and fret." *Poverty, By America P.g. 103-104*

The quote above stood out to me because even though people are well off in their current situation, they still find the time to worry about other things. Even though they could

Jenifer Pelico: *"Conservatives today who cast blame on immigrants for dragging down wages and displacing native workers are carrying forward an old American tradition."* (*Poverty by America Pg.33*) Matthew says that immigrants tend to drag America's economy down. This quote stood out to me because it shows how we immigrants get stereotyped by Americans. Immigrants are seen as lazy people that don't want to work but in reality people don't want to give them a job or a chance for them to try just because they come from another country.

Ameyali: ***“How many of us have met software engineers and doctors and lawyers who are the children of migrant workers farmers and dishwashers and laundresses?” (Poverty by America Pg.34):***

Matthew is talking about how immigrants over time coming to America have always been a part of our economy but since they aren't citizens/undocumented, they were unvalued as workers and even as people, and since they also try to make a living as well; they try finding jobs that other true American citizens wouldn't dare to do, and that's how immigrants thrive working through the flaws of the economy.

This quote stood out to me because it talks about how some immigrants have started working at a low-income job, not receiving much pay, but no matter what has been managed around that system, their children who are citizens wouldn't work the same unfair jobs that they did, wanting a better life and future for their kids. It stood out to me because as a daughter of immigrant parents, that's what my parents go through and I know they, along with other immigrant parents wish and encourage their kids to go to school so that we could get better paying jobs and a better education than what they had/ went through. It made me wonder that since every immigrant wasn't even on their radar back then and taking the jobs that other people didn't want, why is it a bother all of a sudden?

Discussion Question: Do you think that all immigrants, both those who have come before and those who have come now, should receive something, even though they have entered the country illegally? Can they be the greater good for the economy and maybe even for the country?

Andres Ramirez

: “In 2022, the Poverty line was drawn at \$13,590 a year for a single person and \$27,750 a year for a family of four.”

This quote helps me understand the line between being called poor and being in poverty. This also helped me understand the calculation that Orshansky calculated as “any family making less than \$3,000 (making \$27,000 at the beginning of 2022) would be considered poor because they would be devoting more than a third of their income to food, forgoing other necessities (...) there is thus a total of 50 million person-of whom 22 million are young children who live in the bleak circle of poverty.”(Poverty. By America pg.10)

Matthew explains who is considered poor as they calculated who made a person based on how much they made and what they can afford. I feel related to this as I was only able to buy food necessities and school. I couldn't afford the latest shoes, iPhones, and clothes. I wouldn't say I was in poverty but I did struggle with plans my parents made as my father was deported which ruined the plan to move homes and live in a better place.

What makes a person consider poor? What are some of the reasons why people become poor? What can we do to solve poverty?

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Dario: The Great Gatsby (Chapter 1 pg 24) “You make me feel uncivilized Daisy,” I confessed on my second glass of corky but rather impressive claret. “Cant you talk about crops or something?”

The context of this quote takes place when Nick is having dinner with Daisy, Miss Baker, and Tom when Tom accidentally hurts Daisy's finger, Daisy responds by saying "You did it, Tom", I know you didn't mean to, but you did do it". It makes me think about poverty because of course when someone mentions poverty someone would think of the poor as wealthy or stereotypically uncivilized person, but also when people aren't exactly within a modest-like behavior which Daisy and Tom weren't because they're talking about Daisy getting hurt on her hand which isn't very formal while dinner is taking place.

Anahi: The Great Gatsby, "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone", he told me, "just remember that all of the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (Chapter 1 pg.1)

This quote is advice Nick's father told him when he was younger. The context of this quote is Nick's father telling him not to judge anyone because not everyone has the same opportunities as him. Nick comes from a wealthy family so his dad wants him to stay humble and not be self-centered. This quote stood out to me because I realized that what his father told him is true. Not everyone has the same economic advantages as everyone else because some people have more than others. As a society we should not judge people based on their lifestyle, the way they look, or anything because we don't know their background. Some people are blessed to have everything and some aren't so we should just be grateful for what we have.

Cayden: 1. The Great Gatsby Chapter 1 Pg.17 "I lived at West Egg, the – well, the least fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them. My house was at the very tip of the egg, only fifty yards from the Sound, and squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season. The one on my right was a colossal affair by any standard ... My own house was an eyesore, but it was a small eyesore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor's lawn, and the consoling proximity of millionaires – all for eighty dollars a month."

2. The context of this quote is the narrator, Nick, just introducing the setting and where he lives. This quote stood out to me because it shows that the narrator is in a kind of middle class where he is not rich nor poor and he lives next door to a millionaire which shows he is not poor but he lives in a kinda small house.

3. How does someone's proximity to wealth effect their goals and they are as a person and how does it affect ones place in society.

Fatima: The Great Gatsby Chapter 2- "I almost married a little kyke who'd been after me for years. I knew he was below me. Everybody kept saying to me: 'Lucille, that man's way below you!'"

1. In this quote, Nick, Tom his mistress and some of their friends were talking about how Tom and Daisy can't divorce since Daisy is "catholic" and also Mrs.Wilson not loving her husband and wanting to be with Tom. Then a woman named Catherine mentions how

she was going to marry a man that was below her in society. This quote stood out to me because women back in the day cared about their society even though they were in love with the man they always see if they are below or not. This made me think that people care about being stable in life with the person they are being married to. This made me wonder about how can a women so inlove still think about the money.

2. Why was money so important in marriages back in the day?

***Leslie :** “The great Gatsby “ , “Civilization going to pieces , broke out tom violently i have gotten to be a terrible pessimist about things .Have you read the rise of the coloured empires by this man goddard ? “ (pg 17)

This paragraph stood out to me because it made me realize the things they were going through because it kinda got violent and I think that people need to learn from that because people always have to reward the things happening outside and in the world . Him and his dad don't really talk too much so it was unusual for him to tell him that but he knew he meant it in a great deal. He is heading off for college. Nick is a very open person; he likes talking to new people and likes analyzing them and to get to know something new about them. This quote stood out to me because I realized that what his father told him is true. Not everyone has the same economic advantages as everyone else because some people have more than others. As a society we should not judge people based on their lifestyle, the way they look, or anything because we don't know their background. Some people are blessed to have everything and some aren't so we should just be grateful for what we have. We should be grateful for what we have in our lives because some people want what we have and sometimes we aren't grateful for those things .

Questions : can poverty have effects on any individual or eradicated (eliminated)?

Daisy: The Great Gatsby Chapter 2- “ I married him because I thought he was a gentleman,” she said finally. “ I thought he knew something about breeding, but he wasn't fit to lick my shoe.” (page 28). This quote is by Myrtle Wilson during a party in her apartment at New York City when her sister, Catherine, asked her why she married her husband if she didn't see him as a fit anymore surrounded by Tom Buchanan, Nick, Mr and Mrs Mckee, her neighbors. When she married Mr. Wilson, she was in love with him but now as her marriage has progressed it seems that she does not see him as worthy of her anymore which led to her affair with someone of more money like Mr. Buchanan. Mrs. Wilson married her husband thinking he was a man of money and as the marriage continued, she realized that Mr. Wilson had little money, she began to see him as below her. I think it shows how many women marry men for the money even though she might have loved him. We can see she feels regret now for marrying him because he is not providing for her the way she wants him to. When seeing it in a more general perspective when people see how others act, behave, and how much money they have they immediately decide if they are up to their standards or to their social status and determine if they are worth being involved with. It all leads to a social hierarchy and people thinking that there is much difference between a person of money and a person with no money and how money determines the worth of a person.

Questions: Do you think societal expectations and social hierarchy should influence personal relationships?

Audrina: The Great Gatsby - “ He borrowed somebody’s best suit to get married in, and never even told me about it, and the man came after it one day when he was out. She looked around to see who was listening. Oh, is that your suit? I said. This is the first I ever heard about it. But I gave it up to him and then I lay down and cried to beat the band all afternoon.”

- Myrtle Wilson , Chapter 2 (pg 29)

This quote stood out to me because Myrtle is from the lower class and is cheating on her husband with Tom Buchanan who has a higher social status and this scene in the book is happening in the apartment that Tom bought for Myrtle. This quote stands out to me because even though Myrtle isn’t from a higher class she acts as though she is and finds out Mr. Wilson borrowed a suit to marry her really hard as though it was the end of the world for her.

Sanaiya: *“Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,” he told me, “just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.”*

- Nick Carraway’s father’s quote, Chapter I, Page 1.

The quote is from Nick’s father and gives him advice for life. Nick and his father were never close but he got the traits of non judging and understanding from his father.

This quote made me realize that some people unfortunately are not in the same economic standpoint of higher class people and we as a society should not judge people for the way they live, how they look, and their lifestyles. It gave me a sense of remembrance that I’m very blessed and I shouldn’t point out things about others because they might not be as blessed as me.

My lingering question is, what is the moral ground view of poverty? How is poverty viewed to different people, from various points of view?

David:” I lived at West Egg, the—well, the less fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them. My house was at the very tip of the egg, only fifty yards from the Sound, and squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season.” “My own house was an eye-sore, but it was a small eye-sore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a The Great Gatsby view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor’s lawn, and the consoling proximity of millionaires—all for eighty dollars a month.”

Page 7 (chapter 1)

This stood out to me because it showed how Nick is wealthy enough to live in West Egg but not wealthy enough to rent or afford a nice place to live in, although he lives in the small house he lives next to millionaires

My question would be why would you like to look rich if you're not trying to fit it and what would you gain from it?

Cristopher's Selected Quote:

"This is the valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens; where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and, finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air."

- Nick Carraway's description of the Valley of Ashes, Chapter II, Page 23.

This is how Nick Carraway had viewed the Valley, a desolate and depressing in New York filled with the poorest people in the land, with no proper homes or lives to live with how poor they are, relying only on the physical labor that they can put out, which pales in comparison to the lands of East and West Egg, both filled to the brim with the rich people, lively lands and nobody that would be poor and living the worst life, proving the economic disparity of the time to be true.

In my opinion, this quote perfectly describes how we view the working class from a rich standpoint and shows both economic disparity and poverty during the time the book was written and published, proving that the rich only saw the working class as poor, and even those who were in the middle class viewed themselves as poor, with horrible working conditions, the worst living conditions, and so on, and this happens during the book too, with how Tom Buchanan, a old money individual, or in other terms, a rich man, had went through this desolate, lifeless and depressing segment of New York City, and how he views it, although this is how Nick Carraway, a middle-class man who is of new money from being a bondman, sees it all.

That is what stood out to me the most from this quote, and it made me think that we have gone through our lives ignoring the conditions that surrounded us as we drive through certain places and at the wrong times, seeing how people have the worst lives and no chance of improving, only having their horrible situation worsen with how we treat them as nothing but garbage on the side of the road, pitying the fools who have found themselves in such a predicament. It also had me wondering why we simply allow these people to live like this and ignore them all, instead of trying to help them improve their lives and bring them back onto their feet, giving them a foothold out of their mire, where they can climb out and live life as they would have. Even more so, we treat them worse than we should, and it's most notable with New York and how they deal with the issue of homelessness, being anti-homeless to a maximum, with horrible bench designs, not allowing them to sleep comfortably wherever they can by making everything a hostile environment and trap to them.

My question to the people of our generation and past, is this:

"Why do we treat these people who have had bad cards dealt to them, in such a way that it only worsens their lives, instead of trying to help improve them?"

Richard

Quote: "But above the gray land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic—their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face, but, instead,

from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a non-existent nose. Evidently some wag of an oculist set them there to fatten his practice in the borough of Queens, and then sank down himself into eternal blindness, or forgot them and moved away” (Chapter 2, Page 23-24)

The Great Gatsby

Reflection: The beginning of Nick's description of Doctor Eckleburg's giant, disembodied eyes gives the impression that the eyes are all-seeing and give judgment. However, Nick's dismissal of the actual doctor as a “wag” who wanted to improve his practice before letting the billboard decay suggests that the ad is just another example of the emptiness of American consumerism. The eyes in this passage are used to symbolize the upper class. The eyes like the upper class, look out over the valley, but do nothing to improve its problem. The people that live outside the Valley of Ashes have no interest in helping the people that are struggling to live inside the Valley of Ashes.

Question: Why would Nick use such random parts like disembodied eyes to represent the social structure of America.

Carolina: *“This fellow has worked out the whole thing. It’s up to us, who are the dominant race, to watch out or these other races will have control of things.”* (The Great Gatsby, Pg. 11)

This quote is from a conversation that Tom, Daisy, Nick, and Jordan had during their dinner. Tom said this after recommending Nick a book called Civilization is going to pieces. Then Daisy gets into the conversation and that annoys Tom making him say this quote. Their whole conversation was about how other races were starting to get richer and climb up the social ladder. The white race wasn't any longer at the top, there were now many people making their own business and going up getting out of the Valley of ashes into the area of new money. The valley of ashes was the area where all the poor people lived, where the people at the bottom of the ladder lived. I think he was scared that the new money people would go into the old money area and that he would have to see people that succeed on their own and not inherited the money. I also believe that Tom was kinda jealous of the people's success, especially the people that were not of the white race. He felt threatened by their success. Nick was just trying to eat some food and have some bonding time with his cousin that he hasn't seen in such a long time. Daisy was drunk, most likely.

Amparo: “Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,” he told me, “just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.” (The Great Gatsby Pg:11) The situation of this quote in the book was that when Nick was younger and more vulnerable that has stuck with him ever since his dad told him. Him and his dad don't really talk too much so it was unusual for him to tell him that but he knew he meant it in a great deal. He is heading off for college. Nick is a very open person; he likes talking to new people and analyzing them and getting to know them more. This quote stood out to me because most of the time we don't get to really know someone and take the time to sit with them and have a genuine conversation. Most of the time we judge someone by their appearance, remember what they say “Don't judge a book by its cover”. It made me wonder, do we really pay attention to the advice we get from

other people or do we just take it for granted?. Are you a person that looks out for wealthy people and are only interested in talking to them or are you just an open person?

Jennifer Montoya: "I was immediately struck by the number of young Englishmen dotted about ; all well-dressed, all looking a little hungry, and all talking in low earnest voices to solid and prosperous Americans. I was sure that they were selling something: bonds or insurance automobiles. They were at least agonizingly aware of the easy money in the vicinity and conceived that it was theirs for a few words in the right key." (The Great Gatsby Pg:42).

Nick stated that as he was walking into Gatsby's house after he was personally invited to the party. Nick was on his way looking for Gatsby when he saw a couple of men looking forward to doing business with the other important people at the party. The English man at the time did not have much, so as soon as they saw that they had an opportunity they took it. They decided that it was best for them to try and negotiate in these lavish parties because of the insane number of people that came from all over New York just to attend The Great Gatsby House.

Guadalupe:

"Miss Baker?" he inquired. "I beg your pardon, but Mr. Gatsby would like to speak to you alone."
"With me?" she exclaimed in surprise. "Yes, madame." She got up slowly, raising her eyebrows at me in astonishment, and followed the butler towards the house." (Great Gatsby, pg.50)

Gatsby would like to speak Jordan in private, which she is surprised and curious by it because she has never done that before. It makes us wonder what are Gatsby's intentions and why is he mysterious. It makes me think that Gatsby uses mystery to manipulate people and he controls interactions with precaution. Although it doesn't mention poverty, it foreshadows how Gatsby got to where he is today

My discussion question is, " What do you think about Gatsby's choice to talk to certain people. like Miss Baker, says about him and what he is after?"

Gianna :

The Great Gatsby (Chapter 3) " The Valley of Ashes"

" This is an unusual party for me. I'm used to girls who are... elegant... but I'm not really sure about the others"

Reflection: In Chapter 3 " Reading deep into chapter 3 we get an insight into Gatsby's character and get a clue that Gatsby is more of a party type guy who loves to throw parties every weekend at his mansion, lavish spectacles to which people long to be invited. This quote indirectly comments on the class divide between those who live in the Valley of Ashes, a desolate area between East Egg and West Egg, and those in the more

affluent neighborhoods. The Valley of Ashes symbolizes the stark poverty that exists outside of the wealth of the main characters”.

Discussion Questions:

- What is she so not sure about the others?
- In chapter 3 it talks about how rich Gatsby is and I really want to know how he got so rich?
- Was he just born into a rich family did he make his way up their?
-

Megan:

The Great Gatsby (pg: 1)

“Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,” he told me, “Just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.”

Reflection:

- Discussion: In Chapter 1 page 1, Nick Carraway's wealthy background is hinted at, as his father advises him not to criticize those without advantages, reflecting F. Scott Fitzgerald's emphasis on character individuality and societal contrasts in the 1920s. I chose this quote because at first I was having a hard time reading this book and I would keep reading from the beginning so I could get a better understanding of what I was reading. And when the prompt of poverty came up, I remembered that the first page had a quote on Nick's dad giving him some advice.

Discussion Questions:

- Nick’s family is rich right? People were telling me that he was not rich and when I read this quote it surely hints at us that his family is rich because they had “more advantages” than others.
- Also in Chapter 3, it say’s how Gatsby is rich right? How did he get rich?
- He was actually first introduced when he was “a penniless young man” when he first met Daisy Buchanan. But then later on he gained money by bootlegging. He also built connections with organized crime figures such as Meyer Wolfsheim.

lyanna

The Great Gatsby

Quote: *"I like to come," Lucille said. 'I never care what I do, so I always have a good time. When I was here last I tore my gown on a chair, and he asked me my name and address – inside of a week I got a package from Croirier's with a new evening gown in it."* Chapter 3, page 53.

Discussion: In Chapter 3, we meet Jordan's friend Lucille McKee. She is of a higher status and is wealthy. I feel that this quote shows that she owns many expensive gowns, but as she said, she just has fun and could care less if she damages a gown because she can just buy a new one. She's one of the wealthy characters in the book who just spends her money and doesn't worry about the cost, when other characters, for example, like Nick, who is of lower status, does have to be mindful of what he spends and where.

Question and thoughts: A lot of these characters are privileged to live such a glamorous life during the Roaring 20s which was an era known for its wealth and parties.

My question: How would the effects of the Great Depression which comes after the Roaring 20s affect these characters' lives?

lexy- "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." **The Great Gatsby** (chapter 1 pg. 3)

In his younger years, his father gave him some advice. The situation is meant to show how we as a society should not judge one for who they are or for how they look. Nick Carraway comes from a wealthy background, as his father warns him not to criticize those who haven't had his advantages. This quote stood out to me because in the real world some people may be more stable than others and it's best to humble yourself.

Angela- "It was hard to realize that a man in my own generation was wealthy enough to do that" chapter 1 on page 13 He is saying before he was describing the two cities and how they call them eggs because they look like eggs and the East egg is the wealthy side and when he was talk he was saying he going to see their mansion. After the quote he was saying that the he cant believe what daisy said over the phone. This standed out to me because I was like a man has all the power to do what he wants if they have money its like a mans world. This made me wonder this world is a mans world there is no way of changing it. This made me think how poverty is a issue and a rise of corruption. Do you think the quote is talking about proverty or corruption? And why?

Christian U:

QUOTE (PG53) "I was becoming too "rich" for the kids from the neighborhood and too "poor" for the kids at school"

Reflection:

This stood out to me because i get an understanding of other people's situations in society.

This also stood out to me because it made me reflect on the idea of social mobility and the challenges it brings. It's not just about moving up economically, but also about navigating how one's changing financial status affects their relationships and self perception. I was particularly struck by how the speaker feels "too rich" for one group and "too poor" for another, suggesting that peoples sense of self worth is often tied to the comparison with others. It made me think about how society can create these divisions based on wealth, and how difficult it can be to reconcile one's position in a world that seems to have strict boundaries between "insiders" and "outsiders." I also wondered how this feeling of being "in between" could affect someone's sense of self and their ability to form genuine connections with others.

Question: How does social mobility impact a person's sense of identity, and how can someone find a sense of belonging when they no longer fit into the social categories they once identified with?

Sheily:

"The only building in sight was a small block of yellow brick sitting on the edge of the waste land, a sort of compact Main Street ministering to it, and a contiguous to absolutely nothing."
They Great Gatsby (pg 23)

Context: In this part of the story, Tom Buchanan took Nick to visit his mistress, Myrtle Wilson. Tom and Nick went up to New York because Tom wanted to see his mistress and Tom also wanted Nick to meet his mistress. They went to the bad side of New York, and even though Nick did not want to meet his mistress he still did, when they went into her house Nick was also able to meet Myrtle's husband George Wilson. Later on, Tom and her met at the train station and went out without her husband knowing, thinking that she would go to her sister's house.

Explain: This stood out to me because that is when Tom visited his mistress even though he has a wife and his mistress also has a husband. Also, the book describes the setting and where Myrtle lives which is a not-so-very-good area of New York. She lives in the Valley of Ashes which signifies the poor of New York because there is no financial stability. This made me think of how badly Myrtle lived and because she didn't have a lot from her actual husband, like money, that is what caused her to have an Affair with Tom because he was wealthy and had so much money.

Discussion Question: If Tom loved Myrtle, why hadn't Tom and Myrtle left their wife and husband?

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

Lauren: The Other Wes Moore - "When we moved to New York, she worked multiple jobs, from freelance writer for magazines and television to a furriers assistant- whatever she could do to help cover her growing expenses. She provided for us, and she was helping out her parents, who were living off two small pensions and their small monthly Social Security check". (page 47) This quote means how Wes Moore is describing his mother's determination to provide for her family. At this point in the narrative, the family has recently relocated to New York in search of better opportunities, but they are still financially struggling. This has stood out to me because it shows poverty within their family and how they are struggling and their mother is juggling jobs just to provide for her kids and so they can be in private school. Should society provide more support to help individuals balance financial work and caregiving responsibilities?

Xavier: The Other Wes Moore (Chapter 1)- "She worked at Bayview Medical Center as a unit secretary in order to supplement the grant that was helping her pay for school. The \$6.50 an hour she was making at Bayview was enough to keep the balance of her tuition paid, the lights on, and the kids fed, as long as her Pell Grant was in place. But with that grant now eliminated, it wouldn't be enough." (Pg. 17-18). The context of this quote was that Mary received a letter in mail and it stated that the federal budget for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants-or Pell Grants- was being slashed and her grants were being terminated. She was also working at Bayview Medical center as a unit secretary, and she was getting paid \$6.50 an hour which was plenty to feed her kids, keep the lights on, and to pay off her tuition with the Pell Grant. But unfortunately, they terminated her Pell Grants which meant she couldn't attend the university anymore and that also meant that her job at the medical center was permanent. The reason why this quote stood out to me the most was because a lot of people still go through this till this day. Many people rely on financial aid to take care of their tuition and school expenses in order for them to take care of their living expenses and other utilities. If their aid is suddenly taken away, then those people have to make very difficult decisions, such as choosing between working long hours, cutting back on essential expenses, or even dropping out of school to focus on immediate financial needs.

Critical Question: What do you think are some potential long-term effects on individuals and families when financial aid like Pell Grants is suddenly eliminated?

Isiah: (The other wes moore, pg 14-15) "My father was dead five hours after having been released from the hospital with the simple instructions" get some sleep"...My father had entered the hospital seeking help... The hospital looked at him askance,insulted him with ridiculous questions, and told him to fend for himself." **C:** Wes's dad went into the hospital after a long day at work and when he went home he felt there was something wrong with his throat, so he went to the doctor and at first they gave him a pill but that just made it swell up, even more, resulting in wes' dad suffocating to death but before he died doctors looked at him asked questions like is his mental health ok? "Does he have any reason to fake symptoms?" I think that if Wes's

dad's skin was way lighter his clothes were up to par his face was clean and he looked "regular" the workers would have definitely done some type of treatment on him just because of his looks. This 85% correlates with being a victim of poverty because if they were rich Wes's dad was still alive but since he looked like a poor man they would give him the pill that ended his life. Why didn't they just run a couple of tests instead of doubting him despite his looks?

Emilio: **(The Other Wess Moore, Pg 17-18)** " She worked at Bayview Medical Center as a unit secretary in order to supplement the grant that was helping her pay for school. The \$6.50 an hour she was making at Bayview was enough to keep the balance of her tuition paid, the lights on, and the kids fed, as long as her Pell Grant was in place. But with that grant now eliminated, it wouldn't be enough. The next day she called Johns Hopkins and let them know that she was dropping out. That part-time at Bayview would become permanent.

Christian Bahena: *"I was becoming too "rich" for the kids from the neighborhood and too "poor" for the kids at school"*(page 53). Wes Invited his friends from school and friends from his neighborhood to a baseball game and things went wrong and the kids got into a fight. Wes lives in the Bronx where the streets are dangerous and drugs are a normal thing there, he also had poor friends and when he talked about his school to his friends they just laughed at him. Wes goes to a private school with rich kids and they talk about their trips to Greece and Spain, and their new video game systems. Wes did not have any of that because he was poor and didn't have money or enough clothes to go to school. This quote stood out to me because Wes has had a difficult time trying to live two different lives since he moved from Maryland to the Bronx due to his father's death. A question that I have is, why is the Bronx not getting any type of support from the city and not helping the people that are living in rough condition ?

Lorenzo: Learning the details of his story helped me understand my own life and choices, and I like to think that my story helped him understand his own a little more." (xiii). After the Father had passed away his mother packed up and their family moved from Baltimore to the Bronx to live with her parents. Like any inner-city community, drugs were a part of life. In the Bronx, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine had been around for a long time. Crack was more available and more addictive than other drugs. It was cheap and easier to produce. The drug created more violence among the street gangs. It also created a need for more manpower. Many of the boys Moore knew from the neighborhood were getting recruited. But Joy was going to see to it that her children didn't become casualties of the impact of poverty. Joy would make sure her children were given every opportunity to make something good of their lives. For Moore and his sister Shani, that meant private school. How can we resolve these issues

Magaly: "The walls and floors were coated with filth and graffiti. Flickering fluorescent tubes(the ones that weren't completely broken) dimly lit the cinder-block hallways. The constantly broken-down elevators forced residents to climb claustrophobic, urine-scented stairways. And the drug game was everywhere, with a gun handle protruding from the top of every tenth teenager's waistline."(page 27)

In chapter 2 it talks about a place where Tony(Wes' older brother) would not be at home and would go to The Murphy Homes. In there the place was all unorganized and messy since he would go there and do drugs. This shows poverty because a lot of people who are poor just want to do drugs and live a horrible life. How can someone who does drugs would wish to survive in an environment like this instead of having a healthy and comfy home.

Kimberly: "Things were falling apart, and the halls of school were no exception or refuge from the chaos outside. But no matter how much the world around us seemed ready to crumble, my mother was determined to see us through it." (pg 47) After the death of Moore's dad, his mom decided to move back to her parent's house in New York with her kids. She couldn't handle the pain alone anymore. On the way there she was so excited for their new future in the Bronx as she remembered all her good childhood memories there. When they arrived, she realized that the Bronx was no longer how it used to be. Everything was ruined and falling apart including schools. However, despite the challenges around the Bronx, Moore's mother didn't let it deter her and instead she fought hard to make sure her kids didn't have to face those challenges. Would you be able to succeed in a broken environment or would you be influenced negatively?

Gimena: "My father had entered the hospital seeking help. But his face was unshaven, his clothes disheveled, his name unfamiliar, his address not in an affluent area... looked at him askance, insulted him with ridiculous questions, and basically told him to fend for himself" (The Other Wes Moore pg 14). Wes' father was a gentle and kind man and his passion was being a broadcast journalist. He went into work but left feeling sick and out of breath. He didn't know that was going to be his last day doing his favorite thing. When he went to the hospital the doctor and nurses overlooked his serious symptoms and released him without doing real tests on him. Later that day, Wes witnessed his dad falling down the stairs and gasping for air. They all left in the ambulance and when they arrived a doctor told them he was dead. This makes me think about the hundreds of injustices that are happening only because others don't like how people look. If they look unorganized, they think they're poor and don't deserve the best care possible but if they have good clothes on and look clean, people give them the most attention. Wes' father looked messy so the doctor's chose to not give him the best absolute care. They let their views and ideals get in the way of saving a man's life which that choice ultimately led to his death. What are ways that we can help to eliminate this point of view?

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Blanca: "He came up grinning, filthy but alive. Lieutenant Cross nodded and closed his eyes while the others clapped Strunk on the back and made jokes about rising from the dead." (**The Things They Carried**, pg. 12) During the war in Vietnam, the soldiers were ordered to blow the tunnels, they had to send one soldier to search the inside of the tunnels. Nobody wanted to go inside the tunnels because they never knew what was waiting for them. It was a victory every time the soldier would come back alive. This quote stood out to me because even though they were scared of dying they still found it in them to make jokes about death and they tried having happy moments. The tunnels make me think of life, we are expected to live a regular and do as we are told but we never know what we can expect to find along our journey, we don't know

what family we are being born into, and what our purpose in life will be. I can relate this to poverty because even though there are many reasons for being sad and afraid of what might happen if you find the good things going on in your life you will always find a reason to smile. After all, happiness does not have a price but a decision that you make every day. Is poverty a decision we make or something we are born into?

Claudia: "If you support a war, if you think it's worth the price, that's fine, but you have to put your own precious fluids on the line. You have to head for the front and hook up with an infantry unit and help spill the blood." (The Things They Carried, pg. 40)

When Tim O'Brien was drafted to fight in the Vietnam War he did not want to go. He didn't want to do anything. This quote stood out to me because Tim O'Brien was very chill about everything up until this point and after this point, he began to freak out. His guilt of not wanting to go to war and hurt others, and himself, was beginning to eat him alive. Would spilling the fluids mean spilling his blood? Would it mean all the sacrifices everyone has to make to be part of the war?

Damian: "It was what had brought them to war in the first place, nothing positive, no dreams of glory or honor, just to avoid the blush of dishonor." (page 14-15) (The things they carried). This quote shows that the soldiers had nothing and that is what led them to fight in the Vietnam war in the first place and they had no hope or dreams, so they had no faith. In the book this shows/explains that the soldiers had nothing in their life that they seemed to care for, no goals, dreams, glory, or anything generally positive in their life. This shows that it is one of the main reasons as to why they decided to join the Vietnam war, and instead of doing nothing positive or doing nothing at all with their life they decided to fight in Vietnam. Why is having goals in our society so important for our future and our dreams in life?

Gilbert "By daylight they took sniper fire, at night they were mortared, but it was not battle, it was just the endless march, village to village, without purpose, nothing won or lost." (Pg. 15) (**The Things They Carried**) This quote stands out to me because they would terrorize no matter what situation the village was in, no matter if they were in poverty or full of richness they would still go. This shows us no matter what situation they were at they would still be affected. Why does poverty have such a strong effect on us where we are treated differently?

Fernando: "They carried the soldiers greatest fear, which was the fear of blushing. Men Killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to." (The Things They Carried pg 20) This relates to poverty because the soldiers were embarrassed of blushing; the people in poverty are ashamed of the state they're in. Why would they be ashamed and why is poverty shameful in society?

Aileen: "They carried diseases, among them malaria and dysentery. They carried lice and ringworm and leeches and paddy algae and various rots and molds" (Page 14, Tim O'Brien). This tells us the things the soldiers carried that weren't just materials but so much more, they told us about how they had lice, ringworm, rots, and mold as they didn't have any medicine or treatment while they had to endure it. This quote means to me the isolation that they experienced in an unfamiliar place and how they kept fighting to prevent themselves from

getting killed. Why would the diseases they carried impact the soldiers and the continuation of the story?

You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World edited by Ada Limon

Jaquan: A woman with a bird- (pg23)

In the poem A Woman With a Bird, Time stood still for the author for years until one day she saw a bird and "Then I realized the eagle was my life watching me," hard times can do one or two things for us in life. Adversity either propels us or hinders us, and in this case time actually stopped, for some this is right after high school or midway college, reality can crumble in an instant. This quote caught my attention because I know so many people in the same place 10 years later, never been more than 15 miles from where they live, their dreams went on pause after high school, this quote made me think of just how hard life can be when some shut down from it.

What is considered a true escape from the reality you run from ? Could true escape be making peace with your reality?

Emmanuel: "Grasshoppers devoured the sunflowers

Petal by petal to raggedy yellow flags-

Squash blossoms of small suns blessed

By dew drops flared beauty in the morning". (You are poetry in the natural world by Joy Harjo, pg. 13). In Joy Harjo's poem, grasshoppers devouring flowers illustrates the complicated relationship between beauty and destruction of nature and why because the grasshoppers represent chaos, while the sunflowers, described as "raggedy yellow flags," symbolize both beauty and danger or destruction.

Harjo highlights that every creature has an important role in the ecosystem. Eating is part of nature's cycle, reminding us that while life is important, new life keeps coming despite losses.

Rather than showing it as perfect, Harjo represents it as both beautiful and harsh. The difference between the flowers and grasshoppers reminds us to reconsider how we view growth and failure. Helping us accept that change and renewal are natural parts of life.

Harjo's imagery shows how coordinated we all are, how well we work together. It encourages us to value all forms of life and to respect the difficulties of our environment.

How does Harjo's image of grasshoppers and sunflowers change our view of beauty and destruction in nature, and what does it show us about the connections between all living things and the cycles of growth and failure?

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Teneya: "Because if you can survive the
violet night, you can survive the next" (pg 145)

(Ruth Awad named reason to live)

Why are they trying to convince them to keep going?

The story tells you why you should live. My thoughts on the quote are that is a way in which
people who go through poverty should keep going

"To the spider, who then answers with a *Hello*,

Careful and very quiet, but nobody is there" (pg137)(Alberto Rios named twenty minutes in the
backyard.)

No one is going to help you get out of poverty or the bad economics

Why did they place the hello like tha?