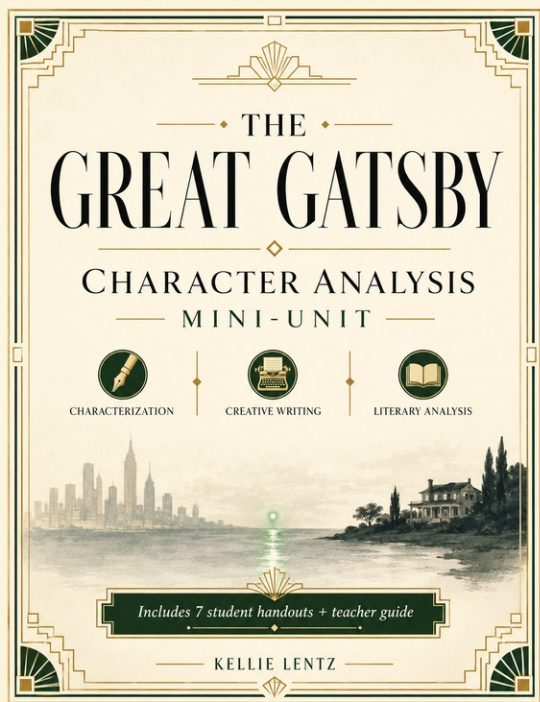


THE GREAT GATSBY

CHARACTER ANALYSIS MINI-UNIT

Authentic preview using real pages from the finished product



THIS RESOURCE INCLUDES

- ◆ Characterization Quick Reference
- ◆ Character Analysis Organizer
- ◆ “I Am” Character Poem
- ◆ Nick Carraway Model Poem
- ◆ From Character Study to Literary Analysis
- ◆ Character Analysis Writing Assignment
- ◆ Character Analysis Rubric
- ◆ Teacher Guide

REAL PAGES INCLUDED

Characterization Quick Reference

Characterization is the way an author develops a character and helps readers understand that character's personality, motivations, values, relationships, and attitudes.

As you analyze a character in *The Great Gatsby*, pay attention not only to what Fitzgerald tells you directly, but also to what you can infer from the character's words, actions, relationships, and surroundings.

Direct Characterization

With direct characterization, the text directly states something about a character.

Ask yourself:

- What are being told about this character?

Direct characterization might describe a character's:

- appearance
- personality
- traits
- feelings/emotions
- attitudes
- reputation

Indirect Characterization

With indirect characterization, readers draw conclusions based on what the character says, does, thinks, or experiences.

Ask yourself:

- What does the character say? How does the character speak?

Actions

What actions does the character make?

Quick Ref

Character Analysis Organizer

Name: _____

Character: _____

Choose one character to examine closely.

As you read, make frequent stops to describe what your character says and does. Think about why the character behaves as they do, what influences their choices, and what Fitzgerald may intend through them.

1. Key Traits

Choose three traits that you believe are important to understanding your character.

Character Trait	What does this reveal about the character?
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

Of these three traits, which seems most important to understanding the character?

Why?

2. Evidence from the Novel

Go back to the text that reads something important about your character. You may consider the character's words, actions, thoughts, relationships, appearance, surroundings, or the way others describe them.

What is it?

Question or specific moment from the novel:

What does this reveal about the character?

Organizer

From Character Study to Literary Analysis

Name: _____

Character: _____

You have already studied your character through the Character Analysis Organizer and, if assigned, the “I Am” Character Poem. Now step back from that work and consider what your observations and creative choices reveal about Fitzgerald's characterization.

The goal is to answer:

What does my character think, feel, want, or fear?

or

What does Fitzgerald reveal about this character, and why does it matter?

1. Return to Your Character Work

Choose one important idea from your Character Analysis Organizer or one line from your “I Am” poem that most meaningfully represents your character.

My idea or line:

What does this idea or line suggest about the character?

What trait, motivation, conflict, contradiction, or desire does it reveal?

Bridge

Character Analysis Writing Assignment

Name: _____

Character: _____

You have spent time examining one character from *The Great Gatsby* through close reading, character analysis, and creative perspective-taking. Now use that work to develop a focused literary analysis.

Choose one of the following characters:

As you read, make frequent stops to describe what your character says and does. Think about why the character behaves as they do, what influences their choices, and what Fitzgerald may intend through them.

Your task:

Write a literary analysis that answers this larger question:

What does Fitzgerald reveal through this character?

Your analysis might explore:

- an important motivation or desire
- a contradiction within the character
- the difference between appearance and reality
- the way the character sees themselves compared with how others see them
- the character's response to society, class, race, reputation, or social expectations
- whether the character changes or fails to change
- why the character might Fitzgerald reveal about a larger idea in the novel

Use your notes to address all of these possibilities. Choose the ideas that best support your interpretation of the character.

Writing

AT A GLANCE

Grades 9-12
36-page complete resource
Flexible mini-unit or selective-use materials
2-4 class periods + writing time

LOOK INSIDE

These are actual pages from the finished PDFs.

THE GREAT GATSBY | CHARACTER ANALYSIS MINI-UNIT

The Great Gatsby

Character Analysis Organizer

Name: _____
Character: _____

Choose one character to examine closely:
Jay Gatsby • Daisy Buchanan • Tom Buchanan • Jordan Baker • Myrtle Wilson • George Wilson

As you work, move beyond simply describing what your character says and does. Think about **why** the character behaves as they do, what influences their choices, and what Fitzgerald may reveal through them.

1. Key Traits

Choose **three traits** that you believe are important to understanding your character.

Character Trait	What makes you describe the character this way?
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

Of these three traits, which seems **most important** to understanding the character?

Why?

2. Evidence from the Novel

Find moments from the novel that reveal something important about your character. You may consider the character's **words, actions, thoughts, relationships, appearance, surroundings, or the way others describe them**.

Evidence 1

Quotation or specific moment from the novel:

What does this reveal about the character?

KELLIE LENTZ

Character Analysis Organizer

THE GREAT GATSBY | CHARACTER ANALYSIS MINI-UNIT

The Great Gatsby

Characterization Quick Reference

Characterization is the way an author develops a character and helps readers understand that character's personality, motivations, values, relationships, and choices.

As you analyze a character in *The Great Gatsby*, pay attention not only to what Fitzgerald tells you directly, but also to what you can infer from the character's words, actions, relationships, and surroundings.

Direct Characterization

With direct characterization, the text directly states something about a character.

Ask yourself:

What am I being told about this character?

Direct characterization might describe a character's:

- appearance
- personality
- habits
- background
- attitudes
- reputation

Indirect Characterization

With **indirect characterization**, readers draw conclusions based on what the character says, does, thinks, or experiences.

Look closely at:

Speech
What does the character say? How does the character speak?

Actions
What choices does the character make?

KELLIE LENTZ

Characterization Quick Reference

THE GREAT GATSBY | CHARACTER ANALYSIS MINI-UNIT

The Great Gatsby

From Character Study to Literary Analysis

Name: _____
Character: _____

You have already studied your character through the Character Analysis Organizer and, if assigned, the "I Am" Character Poem. Now step back from that work and consider what your observations and creative choices reveal about Fitzgerald's characterization.

The goal is to move from:
What does my character think, feel, want, or fear?
to:
What does Fitzgerald reveal about this character, and why does it matter?

1. Return to Your Character Work

Choose one important idea from your Character Analysis Organizer or one line from your "I Am" poem that reveals something important about your character.

My idea or line:

What does this idea or line suggest about the character?

What trait, motivation, conflict, contradiction, or desire does it reveal?

KELLIE LENTZ

From Character Study to Literary Analysis

THE GREAT GATSBY | CHARACTER ANALYSIS MINI-UNIT

The Great Gatsby

Character Analysis Writing Assignment

Name: _____
Character: _____
Due: _____

You have spent time examining one character from *The Great Gatsby* through close reading, character analysis, and creative perspective-taking. Now use that work to develop a focused literary analysis.

Choose one of the following characters:
Jay Gatsby • Daisy Buchanan • Tom Buchanan • Jordan Baker • Myrtle Wilson • George Wilson

Your goal is not simply to describe the character or retell what happens. Instead, develop an **interpretation** of the character and support it with specific evidence from the novel.

Your Task

Write a literary analysis that answers this larger question:
What does Fitzgerald reveal through this character?

Your analysis might explore:

- an important motivation or desire
- a contradiction within the character
- the difference between appearance and reality
- the way the character sees himself compared with how others see them
- the character's response to wealth, class, love, reputation, or social expectations
- whether the character changes—or fails to change
- what the character helps Fitzgerald reveal about a larger idea in the novel

You do not need to address all of these possibilities. Choose the ideas that best support **your interpretation** of the character.

KELLIE LENTZ

Character Analysis Writing Assignment

Support for planning, differentiation, and selective use

Rubric