**Literary Lenses**

**Answer the questions provided about F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby.* You will have to go back into the book and find examples to support your answers. Provide page numbers and quotes or summaries. Answer each question in well-developed, complete sentences.**

**Gender and Feminist Criticism in Literature:**

1. What elements of the text can be perceived as being masculine (active, powerful) and feminine (passive, marginalized) and how do the characters support these traditional roles?
2. What are the power relationships between men and women (or characters assuming male/female roles)?
3. Do characters take on traits from opposite genders? How so? How does this change others’ reactions to them?
4. What does the work reveal about the operations (economically, politically, socially, or psychologically) of ***patriarchy (a system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is traced through the male line.)***?
5. What does the work imply about the possibilities of sisterhood as a mode of resisting patriarchy?

**Marxist Theory in Literature**

1. What social classes do the characters represent?
2. How do characters from different classes interact or conflict?
3. What financial values does the play reinforce?
4. What values does it ***subvert (undermine or bring down)***?
5. What conflict can be seen between the values the play champions and those it portrays?

**Formal Literary Studies**

1. How does the work use imagery to develop its own symbols? (i.e. making a certain road stand for death by constant association)
2. How do paradox, irony, ambiguity, and tension work in the text?
3. What does the form of the work (a play) say about its content? In other words, why did Hansberry choose to write this as a play instead of a novel, short story, or poem?
4. Is there a central or focal passage that can be said to sum up the entirety of the play that we’ve read SO FAR?

**New Historicism Literary Studies**

1. What language/characters/events present in the work reflect the current events of the author’s day? How are such events interpreted and presented?
2. Are there words in the text that have changed their meaning from the time of the writing?
3. How are events' interpretation and presentation a product of the culture of the author?
4. Does the work's presentation support or condemn the event? Can it be seen to do both?
5. How does this portrayal criticize the leading political figures or movements of the day?
6. How does the work consider traditionally ***marginalized (a person or group treated as insignificant)*** populations?