

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **The Great Gatsby**



## Personal Finance Reflection Worksheet

### Fitzgerald's Ledger

F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, carefully tracked his income and spending in personal ledgers. In the 1920s, Fitzgerald earned a great deal of money from short stories and his novel, but he also spent lavishly on travel, entertainment, alcohol, and gifts. His lifestyle mirrored Jay Gatsby's: glamorous, exciting, but financially unstable. By the end of his life, Fitzgerald often struggled with debt despite his success.

In *The Great Gatsby*, we see a similar pattern. Gatsby throws extravagant parties to impress others, spending without concern for long-term stability. Both Fitzgerald and Gatsby lived lives of excess, raising the question: What does it mean to live a "rich" life—financially, emotionally, and morally?

### Part I – Historical Comparison

1. According to the passage, how did Fitzgerald's spending habits reflect the lifestyle of Jay Gatsby?
2. What risks can come from spending lavishly without financial planning?
3. How does Gatsby's "rich life" differ from what you might consider a meaningful or successful life?

### Part II – Personal Reflection

4. If you suddenly had Gatsby-level wealth, what are the first three things you would spend money on?
5. Imagine you were keeping a ledger of your own spending (like Fitzgerald did). What three categories would take up the most space?
6. In your opinion, does living a "rich life" mean having money, or does it mean something more? Explain.