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Period 7
The Great Gatsby Essay
October 22, 2007
Let's Party
Gatsby's house serves as a key symbol of aspiration, reflecting both
Gatsby's success as an American self-made man and the mirage of an identity
he has created to win Daisy's love. Gatsby follows his American dream as he
buys the house to be across the bay from Daisy, and has parties to gain
wide-spread recognition in order to impress her. In the beginning of the
novel, Fitzgerald sets the scene describing how the party was prepared and
when the entertainment arrived. At these parties, an extreme amount of
preparation went into the food. According to the account of Nick Carraway,
Jay's neighbor, the caterers rolled out numbers of tables with load upon
load of every variety of food imaginable. Each table was delicately stacked
with all different and exotic types of foods. Few of the guests know the
host or are even invited at all. This chapter builds on the idea that there
is something not only mysterious, but sinister, about Gatsby.

As Nick makes his way to the party he sees " A whole pit full of oboes
and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornets..." Fitzgerald uses
polysyndeton, the repetition of conjunctions. He chooses a technique to
put emphases on how important Gatsby's parties are to others, like Nick;
who's impressed by Gatsby's turnouts but mostly everyone shows up to make a
known appearance to put their name out in other industries of businesses.

Cars are lined up " five deep in the drive" and everyone has on extravagant
attire to impress one another. If there are masses of people trying to
find a parking space just to get into the party, this shows that Gatsby is
a well-known person and that he is very generous when it comes to public
events. It also drew people's attention to come a check out what was going
on. This led to uninvited guest strolling in and pretending to be someone
they are not. This leads to Gatsby's goal, to find Daisy.

When Gatsby's party guests start to arrive most of the ladies had
" hair shorn in strange new ways." This concluded that the genre of people
that were approaching were of a higher class than most who possess riches
and elegant garments that they could flaunt amongst others. It's as if they
were dressing up for a Halloween party. Their garments were immense and
ostentatious so people could recognize who they were and they could at
least have the attention on them for few minutes. If their outfit was
excessive, then the rest of their attire had to be fit to a tee; including
their hair, nails, make-up and even shoes, " shawls beyond the dreams of
Castile." All of these preparations were all just for appearances. No one
cared for one another, not even the host of the party; they only cared
about their wants and needs in life. At the same time as guests were
filling the halls, the bar was set up overflowing with several alcohol
beverages and the " floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden
outside." This quote is symbolic because it seems as if no one would touch
the food until they made their appearance in front of everyone and in order
to achieve that goal, the place had to filled with chatter and laughter.

When everyone introduced themselves, it is " casual innuendo and
introductions forgotten on spot." This represents their carelessness
toward each others' mind-set and their individual personalities. It's like
words went in one ear and out the other and all people wanted were their
five minutes of fame.

As the evening went on, the women became more and more drunk and less
captivated by their appearances, " Already there are wanders, confident
girls who weave here and there among the stouter and more stable." This
concludes that even though most women were intoxicated, it seems as if they
did it on purpose to get more attention from themselves. While the married
women weaving to and fro, the other women would look for their husbands to
possibly find a new mate to support them through their hard times as well.

Everyone at this party was corrupt and if you looked deep enough into their
personal lives, you could see it was nothing but hollowness. The only
thing that mattered to them was their appearance and how they can achieve
their own American dream by climbing the social latter. This passage also
relates to recklessness, ignorance and greed. All of these qualities
represented to fake people who showed up to party jus to be seen. All in
all, Fitzgerald gave a wonderful description on how Gatsby's party scene
affected him and others around him.