

THE JAZZ AGE:

A Time of Cultural Shifts

Other Changes

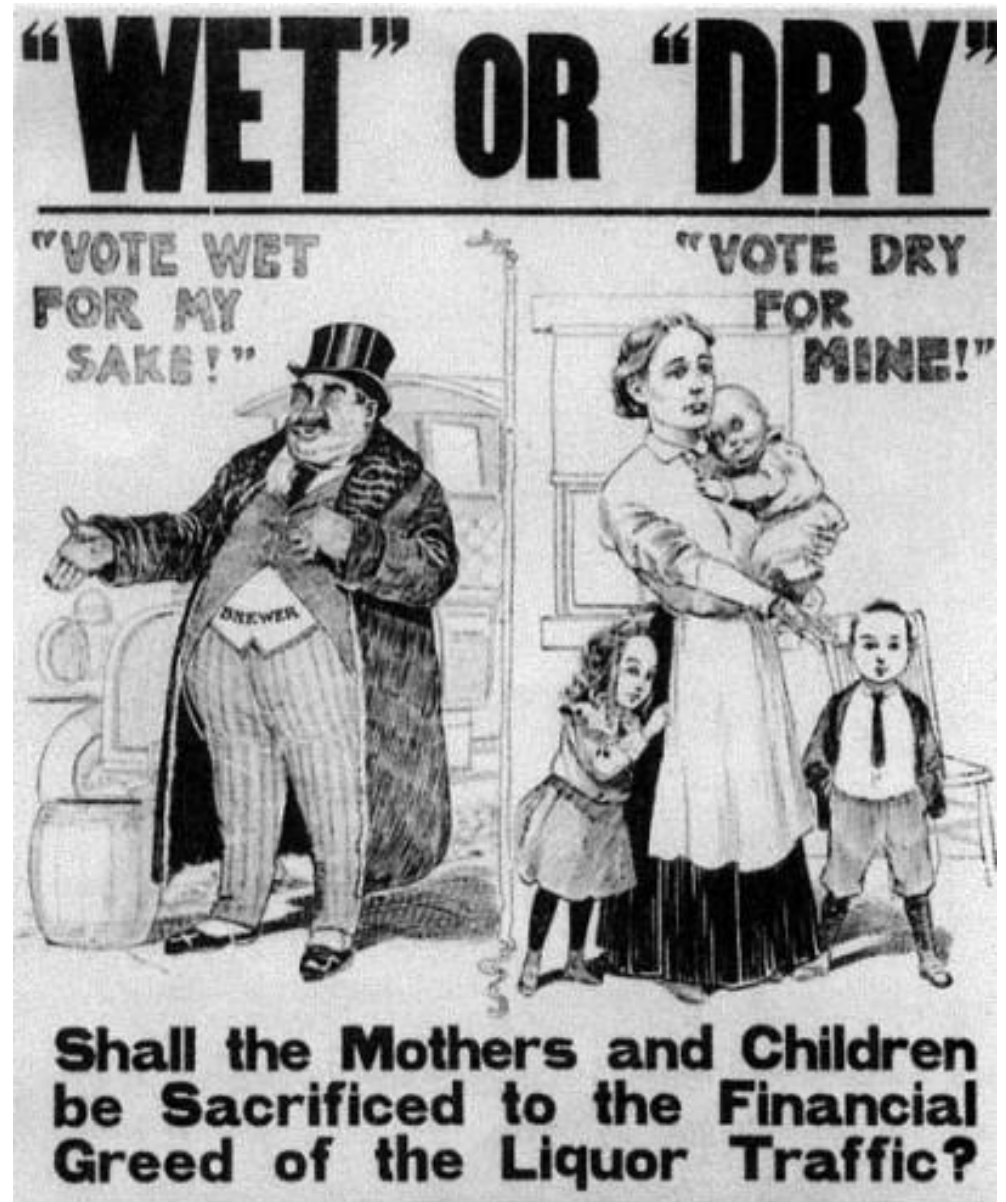
- Du Bois wrote in 1903, *The Great Gatsby* was published in 1925
 - What major world event happened in those 20 years?
 - What do you know about this? How did it impact the U.S.?
- WWI: <https://youtu.be/5nTvaVBbGxY>
- 1920s swing (lol)
 - Shift from discouragement to celebration of life (& expression)



Prohibition

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1T8NlbZ71s>



New Technology

Video:

<https://youtu.be/J8xz9XojxOE>



Write this down!

1920s Important Changes

- Harlem Renaissance
- WWI
- Finances
- Prohibition
- Role of Women
- New forms of expression (poetry & music)
- Developed new technologies, celebrated life but also questioned reality (Existentialism)
- New industries provided new job opportunities, but also big differences between rich & poor, marks of wealth like cars
- Illegal to sell & manufacture alcohol, so it went underground
- Right to vote, NO Cult of Domesticity, shorter hair & skirts

Write this down!

Important Terms to Know

- The Jazz Age – Jazz music rose to popularity, first with black communities through the Harlem Renaissance, then to white listeners
- The Boom Age – Economic stability post-WWI
- The Roaring 20's – Prohibition (speakeasies, wild parties, The Mob) and Women's Suffrage (images of The New Woman)
- The Lost Generation – Group of authors living in Paris & NYC. Term coined by Gertrude Stein, who published many stories in magazines.

Cultural Tensions

- Racial & Political Ideologies
 - The Great Migration & Harlem Renaissance (urban African American life)
- Class tensions
 - Focus on consumer goods, home technologies, & automobiles
 - Growing separations between middle class, the newly wealthy (New Money), and the country's oldest & wealthiest families (Old Money)
- “mass culture” image of extravagant lifestyle
 - Expanded rights for women (1920 suffrage & flappers)
 - Entertainment with radio stations, jazz music, dancing, movie theatres

OLD MONEY vs.

NEW MONEY

Old Money vs. New Money Article

1. Read the article on Old Money vs. New Money
2. Annotate & Note important elements of each side
 - a. Goal is to understand different characteristics
 - b. Be ready to APPLY this information
3. After you read, go through the following questions

React as if....

1. Think like New Money and think like Old Money.
2. Go through questions one at a time
3. Come up with a list of examples/descriptions
4. Then look at the provided pictures – Was your thinking on the right track?

What college do you attend?

Old Money

New Money

What college do you attend?

Old Money

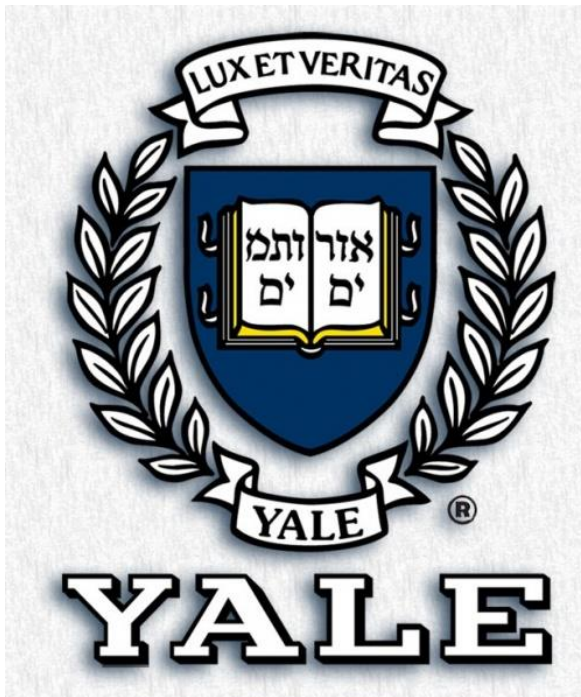


New Money



What college do you attend?

Old Money



New Money



What's your favorite pastime?

Old Money

New Money

What's your favorite pastime?

Old Money



New Money



What's your favorite pastime?

Old Money



New Money



What's your fashion like?

Old Money

New Money

What's your fashion like?

Old Money



New Money



What's your fashion like?

Old Money



New Money



What car do you drive?

Old Money

New Money

What car do you drive?

Old Money



New Money



What car do you drive?

Old Money



New Money



How do you relate to society?

How do you feel about sharing wealth?

Old Money

New Money

How do you relate to society?
How do you feel about sharing wealth?

Old Money



New Money



How do you relate to society?
How do you feel about sharing wealth?

Old Money



New Money



So...why is this important?

- Why do you think it is more prestigious to come from old money? Should it matter?
 - Why do you think it matters to some?
- If you had a new-found boat-load of money, could you fit in with Old Money? What would give you away?
 - How would it affect you to never be accepted by some?

Write this down!

Notice in *The Great Gatsby*

- Characters who are Old Money are:
 - Refined, exclusive, and classy
 - If they spend time with lower classes, they will always feel superior
- Characters who are New Money are:
 - Brightly colored, extravagant, and trying to win everyone over
- Characters who are middle and lower class are:
 - Dull-colored, working hard, and overlooked by the rich

EXISTENTIALISM

What is Existentialism?

- Existentialism = focus on questioning to reach a greater understanding of truth & human individualism

Write this down!

- Development
 - Started in Germany, moved to America in late 1800's
 - Influenced by technology & industrialization
 - Important thinkers: Friedrich Nietzsche and Søren Kierkegaard

Existential Questions

- If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?
- Are you touching the floor if you are sitting cross-legged in a chair?
- What if our whole life is a dream, and when we die we wake up?



Existential Questions

- Why does cancer happen?
- What is communication? How can we better receive sound?
- What is music?
- What is noise?
- What is energy?
- What is light?

Why is it important?

- They created our modern world
 - We've advanced technologically in the last 100 years because of those who dare ask the questions to which we don't have answers.
- For *The Great Gatsby* = lots of questions post WWI
 - Technology, morality, mindless entertainment, etc.
 - Fitzgerald will use imagery to indicate what the reader (you) / 1920s society should think about

Write this down!

Prophet

- A character who can do all or some of the following:
 - Bring others truth or knowledge (often associated with light)
 - Make others aware of beauty
 - Have some power over life and death
 - Act as confessors and/or grant absolution
- May be called a “madman” and ignored by society that doesn’t want to listen



Write this down!

Disembodied Face

- Indicates the Divine
 - Can indicate corrupted divine (comes from post-WWI & existentialism)
 - (Meaning does “God” care? Have people replaced God with other concerns?)
- Recognize it:
 - “indication of face” with missing parts
 - OR the face is intact, but it has a passive gaze or eyes
 - What’s it looking at/over?



OTHER LITERARY COMPONENTS

Find your Symbolism packet!

- Symbols and archetypes allow authors to add layers of meaning
 - Connect between images and bigger ideas
 - Connect among other authors and larger society
- We'll see some new ones in *The Great Gatsby*

Look through your packet:

- Remind yourselves about...
 - Seasons/Times of Day
 - Colors
 - Other Symbols
 - Literary Tools & Components
- What have we seen so far this year?
- What have we not seen yet?

Other Literary Components

- Unreliable Narrator
 - A narrator you can't trust to provide a neutral perspective
- Mismatched Pairs
 - Romantically linked characters that are opposite from each other in attitude, physicality, social or financial position, etc.
- The American Dream
 - personal connection, owning land or heading west, youth, working or middle class

MEET THE AUTHOR

F. Scott Fitzgerald

F. Scott Fitzgerald

(1896-1940)



F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 – 1940)

- Born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Died of a heart attack at age 44.
- WWI – commissioned in the infantry but never served
 - Met Zelda Sayre while stationed at Camp Sheridan in Alabama
- Extravagant playboy lifestyle
 - 1st novel, *This Side of Paradise* (1920), launched him to fame
- Moved between Midwest, NYC, & France
 - Fitzgerald drank, & Zelda suffered from mental health issues
 - Published 4 novels, variety of short stories, & worked as Hollywood screenwriter

F. Scott Fitzgerald

- “What little I’ve accomplished has been by the most laborious and uphill work, and I wish now I’d *never* relaxed or looked back – but said at the end of *The Great Gatsby*; ‘I’ve found my line – from now on this comes first. This is my immediate duty – without this I am nothing.’” – Fitzgerald
- “An author ought to write for the youth of his generation, the critics of the next, and the schoolmasters of ever afterward.” – Fitzgerald