*The Great Gatsby* Dramatic Reading:

Bringing Chapter 3 to Life

Goals:

* As a class, we will give a whole class “reading” of the chapter, in which each member of the class gives a dramatic reading of only one line. Obviously, it will be an abbreviated version of the chapter, but it should include all of the most essential parts.
* Individually, you will write a paragraph that gives an in depth explanation of your sentence and its significance in the book. You will share your paragraph with some of your classmates.

Directions:

* Reread the scene.
* As a group, write a three to four sentence summary of your scene. Each group member must write this short summary on his/her own paper.
* As a group, identify the *four* most essential sentences in your scene. These could be lines of dialogue, or else narration from Nick. You might choose them because they are ambiguous, contribute to characterization, or reveal a pattern.
* Each member of the group should now take responsibility for one of the sentences you chose. Make sure that you know where your sentence occurs chronologically in your scene. Working with your sentence,
1. Decide why it is significant (how is it ambiguous, how does it contribute to characterization, and/or how does it reveal a pattern?).
2. Pull out key words or phrases that reveal this significance. Write a paragraph that makes a claim, and provide one or two key details (short quotations) to support your claim. Include at least 4 sentences of commentary that explain the connections between your claim and your key details.
3. Prepare a dramatic reading of your sentence. Your dramatic reading, if done well, should convey its significance. Which words will you emphasize? What tone of voice will you use? How will you hold your body as you read?

Scenes:

1. **Nick arrives at the party**: “I was on my way to getting roaring drunk… whisper about in this world” (42-44 / 46-48).
2. **The library**: “The first supper… We shook hands with him gravely and went back outdoors” (44-46 / 48-50).
3. **Meeting Gatsby**: “There was dancing now on the canvas… I will rejoin you later” (46-48 / 51-53).
4. **Considering Gatsby**: “When he was gone… walk upon golf courses on clear, crisp mornings” (48-50 / 53-55).
5. **Marital strife**: “I was alone and it was almost two… approached him to say goodbye” (50-52 / 55-57).
6. **Jordan returns**: “Jordan’s party were calling impatiently for her… ‘Good night, old sport… Good night’” (52-53 / 57-58).
7. **Car accident**: “But as I walked down the steps… Formal gesture of farewell” (53-55 / 58-60).
8. **Overview of summer**: “Reading over what I have written… that I have ever known” (55-59 / 60-64).