THE GREAT GATSBY

Focus Questions for Chapter 1

What does Nick say about himself?
What are his strengths and weaknesses
What is his attitude toward Gatsby?
How does Nick give himself “credibility”?

On separate pieces of A4 paper describe:

- West Egg
- East Egg
- Gatsby’s mansion
- Daisy
- Jordan

What does each of these characters value?
- Tom Buchanan

By the end of the chapter how do you view Nick as a narrator?
To what extent is he endorsing/criticising his subject matter?

Chapter 2

On a separate piece of A4 paper describe:

- The Valley of the Ashes – atmosphere/characters etc
- New York – the apartment/characters etc

How does Nick present and view Tom and Myrtle’s relationship?
To what extent is Nick an involved/distant observer?

At this point, and with the ideas explored on the “Views and Values” hand-out in mind, comment on where you think Fitzgerald sits. What is his view on his subject matter, where do his values lie? What is he criticising? What is he endorsing? Which characters are portrayed sympathetically? Who is criticised? Is there an under-lying comment on Nick as the narrator?