**Motifs and Symbols in The Great Gatsby Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Motif:** a recurring device in literature and drama that visualizes and dramatizes the themes of the work. These motifs can take any form, such as contrasting imagery, recurring structures and other literary devices.

**Symbol:** A symbol is a sign which has further layers of meaning. In other words, a symbol means more than it literally says. A symbol can have more than one layer of further meaning. The more profound the symbol, the greater the complexity of the layers of meaning (although the symbol itself may be quite simple).

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| Motifs1. cars: Tom and Gatsby’s cars, the car accident after Gatsby’s party, Gatsby and Nick’s drive into the city, Myrtle’s death and Wilson’s revenge2.parties: Daisy and Tom’s dinner party, Gatsby’s parties in Ch. 3, 4 and 6, Myrtle’s party in Ch. 2)3.colors (yellow, the green light, colors of the city vs. the Eggs, colors of Gatsby’s parties and house vs. Myrtle and Wilson’s abodes, white (purity), colors of the various cars, descriptions of light vs. dark, grey valley of ashes, colors of Gatsby’s clothing, etc.4.weather: Ch. 5 at the tea with Daisy and Gatsby, in ch. 7 when the main characters go to the city, Ch. 8’s switch to Autumn-like weather.5.geography: East vs West, NY vs. the Eggs, Valley of Ashes, where are the characters from and where does the story take place? What do these places symbolize?6.names: Daisy, Carraway, Great Gatsby, James Gatz, changing names, names and status 7. sports: Polo and Tom, Golf and Jordan (and cheating?), Wolfsheim’s involvement in the World Series, sports and leisure time8. cheating: relationships, corruption, laws | Symbols 1. the green light2.the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg 3.Eggs4.Valley of Ashes5.Gatsby’s Mansion6.The color yellow7. Light versus Dark8. other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

1. Select one motif and one symbol. Circle above.
2. For each, find **four (4)** quotes and/or passages that demonstrate Fitzgerald’s use of that symbol. Then, analyze its significance and connection to a theme of the novel. How does the motif or symbol dramatize the theme? What is the relationship of the theme to Fitzgerald’s use of this literary device?

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| **Motif:**  |
| **Quote/passage and page number:** | **What is going on? Context** | **Significance to theme and motif** |
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| **Write a brief analysis of these examples in terms of theme. How does Fitzgerald use this motif to develop his theme? What does the use of this motif add to the story and theme?** |

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| **Symbol:**  |
| **Quote/passage and page number:** | **What is going on? Context** | **Significance to theme and motif** |
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| **Write a brief analysis of these examples in terms of theme. How does Fitzgerald use this symbol to develop his theme? What does the use of this symbol add to the story and theme?** |