

The GREAT GATSBY

Name: _____

PROSE POETRY & POETRY PROS (creative writing)

W10 Range of Writing

In many ways *The Great Gatsby* is poetic. In 1923 Fitzgerald told his editor, “I want to write something new — something extraordinarily beautiful and simple and intricately patterned.” SparkNotes describes the novel’s language as “... wry, sophisticated, and elegiac, employing extended metaphors, figurative imagery, and poetic language...” and explains that *Gatsby* “can be read as an extended elegy, or poetic lament.”

Elegy: a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead.

Prose poem: poetry written in sentences and paragraphs rather than lines and stanzas. Prose poems use typical elements of poetry like rhyme, meter, parataxis, and imagery.

Although Fitzgerald does not identify his work as poetry, we will analyze an excerpt as such. After you analyze the selected prose poem, write an original poem inspired by the novel.

1) ANALYZE PROSE POETRY: “MoonSpell” by F. Scott Fitzgerald (opposite side)

2) ORIGINAL POETRY: Write a poem inspired by the novel. The speaker might be Nick, Daisy, Gatsby’s car, New York City, the ocean, a billboard, or anything you want. Write a prose poem or write in lines and stanzas. Be ready to explain your main poetic elements.

PREWRITING

Speaker:	Subject:
Theme or feeling:	
Poetry elements that you will feature:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Structure</u> (organize the lines [or sentences] for a specific effect)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Imagery / sensory details</u> (descriptions that help us imagine with the senses)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Symbolism</u> (a detail imbued with layers of meaning)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Figurative language</u> (metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, idiom, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Connotations</u> (the feelings and thoughts associated with particular words)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Sound devices</u> (repetition, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Sense of time and place</u> (dialogue, dialect, allusions, and references)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tone</u> (the speaker’s attitude toward the subject as shown by word choice)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mood</u> (the feeling created for the listener)	

“MoonSpell” by F. Scott Fitzgerald

They had been walking down the street when the leaves were falling, and they came to a place where there were no trees and the sidewalk was white with moonlight. They stopped here and turned toward each other. Now it was a cool night with that mysterious excitement in it which comes at the two changes of the year. The quiet lights in the houses were humming out into the darkness and there was a stir and bustle among the stars. Out of the corner of his eye Gatsby saw that the blocks of the sidewalk really formed a ladder and mounted to a secret place above the trees—he could climb to it, if he climbed alone, and once there he could suck on the pap of life, gulp down the incomparable milk of wonder.

His heart beat faster and faster as Daisy's white face came up to his own. He knew that when he kissed this girl, and forever wed his unutterable visions to her perishable breath, his mind would never romp again like the mind of God. So he waited, listening for a moment longer to the tuning fork that had been struck upon a star. Then he kissed her. At his lips' touch she blossomed for him like a flower and the incarnation was complete.

SPEAKER / POINT OF VIEW

(Who or what is communicating?)

SUBJECT:

TOPE (the attitude of the speaker)

MOOD (emotions created for the reader)

THEME OR FEELING:

FEATURED ELEMENTS (sound devices, figurative language, imagery, symbol, etc.)
