

14 February 2012

You may choose your seat....

Your webquest is due today; please make sure that it is in my inbox (physical or digital) by the end of the day for full credit.

Practice SAT Question #1

Part of the following sentence is underlined; beneath the sentence are five ways of phrasing the underlined material. Select the option that produces the best sentence. If you think the original phrasing produces a better sentence than any of the alternatives, select choice A.

A *Raisin in the Sun* won for its author Lorraine Hansberry the distinction of being the first African American to receive the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

- A. of being the first African American to receive
- B. to be the first African American receiving
- C. of the first African American to receive
- D. that she had been the first African American to receive
- E. that she was to be the first African American having received

Practice SAT Question #2

If $22 * 3 * Q = 6$, then $Q =$

- A. 1/11
- B. 1/10
- C. 10
- D. 11
- E. 20

Practice SAT Question #3

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, **best** fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

The play, which features ----- mix of comedy, pathos, and music, was correctly described by one honest critic as a -----.

- A. a seamless . . . debacle
- B. an ungainly . . . hodgepodge
- C. an unfortunate . . . masterpiece
- D. an inappropriate . . . success
- E. a harmonious . . . future

What is the American Dream?

- Regardless of your initial position in life...
- ...you can achieve success/improve your position in the world...
- ... if you are willing to work for it!

F. Scott Fitzgerald

- Born 1896 in Minnesota
- Raised by his father after his mother's death
- Full name was "Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald" – named after a distant relative who wrote "The Star Spangled Banner"



Young Adulthood

- Went to Princeton University in 1913
- Wasn't a great student, but started his early writing career there
- Was on academic probation by 1917; quit school and joined the military
- Continued drafting novels on his weekends off from military drill

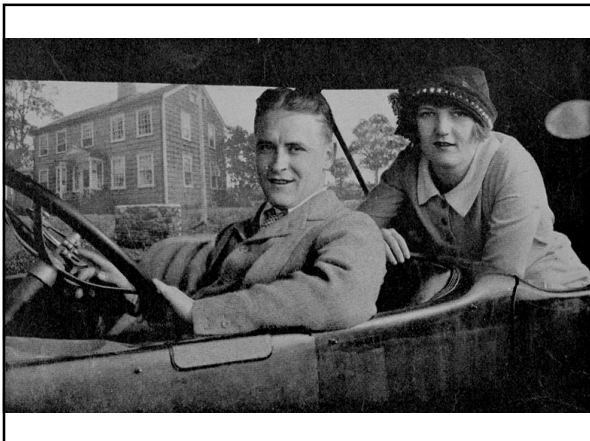
Zelda



- Met Zelda Sayre (a wealthy judge's daughter) at a dance in Alabama
- Her parents refused to let them marry because he couldn't support her financially
- He went to NYC and took an advertising job, but still didn't make enough money
- Zelda broke off their engagement!

This Side of Paradise

- Fitzgerald went into a drunken depression (borrowed \$ for his bender from old college friends)
- Went home and finished his novel – which became *This Side of Paradise*, a tremendous critical and financial success
- He and Zelda made up and were finally married in NYC in 1920.



Autobiographical??

- Fitzgerald had invested all his energies into earning enough money to marry a woman he had fallen in love with while in the military
- This is the same situation as he writes about between Jay Gatsby and Daisy...

Living the High Life

- Now that they're "rich and famous," the Fitzgeralds immerse themselves in the social scene of the Roaring Twenties
- They traveled to (and sometimes lived in) Europe (expats)... and it was there that Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby*

Their Family

- In 1921 they have a daughter, Frances
- As Zelda emerged from the anesthesia, she said, "Oh, God, gofo I'm drunk. Mark Twain. Isn't she smart—she has the hiccups. I hope it's beautiful and a fool—a beautiful little fool."
- They became pregnant again in 1922 but Zelda had an abortion (with Scott's knowledge – it was in his diary)



Things Fall Apart

- *Gatsby* was not as popular as *Paradise*
- The Fitzgeralds run out of money and go back home to Maryland – just in time for the stock market crash of 1929.
- Zelda's health caused a great strain on the marriage
- Scott's drinking increased...

Zelda's Breakdowns

- Zelda had acted as his literary advisor in the past
 - Became jealous and unstable as mental illness affected her
 - Had major breakdowns in 1930 and 1932
 - Ultimately diagnosed as schizophrenic
- Eventually, her mental health became so bad that she was hospitalized for the remainder of her life (died in 1948 – 47 years old)

End of Life

- Fitzgerald's drinking spiraled out of control
- Was writing his fourth novel, *The Last Tycoon*
- Had a heart attack in 1940 and died at the age of 44.

