English 11 Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Moderns* Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Winter Dreams”**

Focus Question: Will status make you happy?

Aim: Read and comprehend Fitzgerald’s short story and apply knowledge of Modernism and elements of literary analysis in order to examine themes within.

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**Do Now**

Today we are shifting from Hemingway to the Modernist writings of F. Scott Fitzgerald. His short story is titled “Winter Dreams.”

It is easy to get caught up in the pursuit of wealth and status – and to imagine that obtaining them would guarantee a perfect life. But would it? Can money buy love, and does high status guarantee happiness?

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What are some indicators that determine status? What are some indicators that determine happiness?

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**Homework:** Complete Reading Guide for “Winter Dreams,” which can be found on pages 620-639 in the textbook.

Read/Notes: Fitzgerald’s life page 620-621

**“Winter Dreams” Study Guide**

You will read F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story “Winter Dreams, found on pages 624-639 in the textbook. You will answer the questions and stop at various points to consider big points of discussion.

Part I.

1. Consider the kind of information you receive in the story’s very first paragraph. What do you learn about Dexter’s family and social position?
2. The setting is established very quickly – and with much figurative language. Note some examples of such used by Fitzgerald.
3. How does Fitzgerald transform the setting from actual to one that is, almost, fantastical?
4. What is it about this “new” setting that motivates Dexter to fantasize about his future? What does this fantasy reveal about his character?



Stop – Consider: Why would it be humiliating for Dexter to serve as a caddy to the “beautifully ugly” girl? What do you know about him that leads you to think that might be true?

1. Describe Miss Jones as a child.



Stop – Consider: Evaluate how well Fitzgerald used dialogue and narration to reveal Miss Jones’s opinion of herself and others.

Part II.

1. As an adult, what does Dexter do for a living?
2. How does Dexter feel when he first hits the fairway, and how do his feelings change during the day?
3. How does Dexter meet Judy Jones the second time?
4. What character traits are revealed by the description of Judy and her actions? Support with actual evidence from the story.



Stop – Consider: What images of luxury and status does Fitzgerald use to evoke the relaxed and pampered lifestyle of the club members?

1. In the (second) meeting between Dexter and Judy, what does Judy assume about Dexter and his usefulness to her?



Stop – Consider: How effective is Fitzgerald’s language in showing the Judy has the upper hand in this new friendship?

1. Do you think Judy has changed since Dexter first encountered her on the golf green years before?

Cite details and dialogue to support your conclusion.

Part III.

1. Summarize Dexter’s ideas about social class and the status it confers. How does Dexter see himself? To what does he aspire?



Stop – Consider: What makes Dexter “newer and stronger” than the wealthy people he meets? Why, then, does he want his children to be like those people?

1. What indicators of status does Dexter expect to encounter at Judy’s home? Are his expectations met?
2. Is Judy being honest when she says she could marry a poor man? Explain.

Part IV

1. Dexter’s thoughts convey information about Judy, but they also reveal much about Dexter himself. Explain what you learn about him from these lines.
2. What is it about the man from New York that makes him a greater threat to Dexter’s hope than Judy’s other boyfriends? What does Judy’s reaction to this man suggest about her view of status?
3. Dexter and Judy’s relationship lasts for 18 months. How would you define the relationship of those 18 months??
4. Why does Dexter become engaged to Irene? Is it a diversion from Judy, or for other reasons? Explain.



Stop – Consider: How does Dexter’s response to autumn compare with his reactions to the season at the beginning of the story? What theme is being suggested by the change in Dexter? Consider how Fitzgerald plays with seasons as a part of the story, itself.

1. Is Fitzgerald’s language when speaking of the Scheerers generally positive or negative? Explain.
2. What kind of relationship can Dexter and Irene expect to have, with each other and with her parents? Will this satisfy Dexter? Explain.
3. When Dexter sees Just Jones again, he notices the gold in her dress, headband, and shoes. Why might he associate gold with Judy?
4. How does Fitzgerald hint at Dexter’s weakening resistance to Judy?



Stop – Consider: Do you think Judy has really changed? Will she really marry Dexter? Give reasons for your predictions.

Part V.

1. What strong emotions has Judy produced in Dexter?
2. When Judy leaves Dexter again, how does he respond emotionally? Why?
3. Compared to Dexter’s intense emotions, how would you describe Judy’s emotions?

Part VI.

1. In what ways does Devlin’s description of Judy undermine her role as a symbol of status in Dexter’s life? How does Dexter respond to the idea that Judy has become ordinary?
2. How has Judy changed? What might have caused these changes?
3. “The sun was gone down, and there was no beauty but the gray beauty of steel that withstands all time.” Remember that Dexter has associated Judy with gold, fire, and light. Why might Dexter experience his loss of Judy as a loss of sun and beauty?



Stop – Consider: Evaluate the efficacy (effectiveness) of Fitzgerald’s central symbol – winter as a time of dreams, growth, and possibility – versus the traditional symbol of spring.

Grammar Check

1. Find four sentences in which Fitzgerald uses coordinating conjunctions with a comma to pull together two independent clauses.
2. Find four sentences in which Fitzgerald included unnecessary sentence interrupters and separates them with commas.
3. Find four sentences in which Fitzgerald uses the dash ( - ) and determine what purpose the dash serves grammatically.