The Great Gatsby – Quote Analysis (Ch. 1-3)

For each quote:

- Thoroughly analyze its significance (*What does it tell us about the character or the novel?*)
- *Set up and integrate* the quote
- Always use present tense
- Avoid contractions and first/second person references

*Example*

“Her husband [Tom], among various physical accomplishments, had been one of the most powerful ends that ever played football at New Haven—a national figure in a way, one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterwards savours of anticlimax...I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game.” – *The Great Gatsby*, Ch. 1 (p.10)

**Analysis:**

The reader is first introduced to Tom Buchanan by Nick, who recalls Tom’s athletic accomplishments in college. Unfortunately for Tom, because he experienced “such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one,” everything that has happened since “savours of anticlimax.” It seems to Nick that Tom is destined to “drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game” (Fitzgerald 10). Tom is desperately searching to recapture the excitement of his youth. The “dramatic turbulence” associated with a football game signifies a certain thrill that is now lost to him. Consequently, because he continues to yearn for the opportunity to relive the exhilaration of his former glory days, he is dissatisfied with the relative tranquility and boring routine of his current life.

“‘The only crazy I was was when I married him. I knew right away I made a mistake. He borrowed somebody’s best suit to get married in and never even told me about it, and the man came after it one day when he was out.’ She looked around to see who was listening: ‘Oh, is that your suit?’ I said. ‘This is the first I ever heard about it.’ But I gave it to him and then I lay down and cried to beat the band all afternoon.” – *The Great Gatsby*, Ch. 2 (p.39)

**Analysis:**
“I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby’s house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited—they went there. They got into automobiles which bore them out to Long Island and somehow they ended up at Gatsby’s door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby and after that they conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with a simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.” – *The Great Gatsby*, Ch. 3 (p.45)

Analysis:

“He smiled understandingly—much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced—or seemed to face—the whole external world for an instant, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you just so far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself and assured you that it had precisely the impression of you that, at your best, you hoped to convey.” – *The Great Gatsby*, Ch. 3 (p.52-3)

Analysis: