

Appendix 4.5. Group 5: The Marxist Approach (Teacher Answer Key)

1. *Read:* Examine the text closely for sports references (pagination provided below refers to the 1995 Scribner paperback edition), especially quotations that describe a specific character’s connection to sports.

Character from <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Sport(s) associated with this character
Jordan Baker (“old money”)	<i>Amateur golfer (23); “I noticed that she wore her evening dress, all her dresses, like sports clothes – there was a jauntiness about her movements as if she had first learned to walk upon golf courses on clear, crisp mornings”(55); “At her first big golf tournament . . . a suggestion she had moved her ball from a bad lie in the semi-final round”(62); “Miss Baker’s a great sports-woman . . . she’d never do anything that wasn’t all right” (76)</i>
Daisy Buchanan (“old money”)	<i>A massive and lethargic woman had been urging Daisy to play golf with her at the local club (113)</i>
Tom Buchanan (“old money”)	<i>Nick introduces us to Tom as “one of the greatest ends ever to play in New Haven” always chasing after an irrecoverable football match (10); “He’d brought down a string of polo ponies from Lake Forest” (10); and at the party in Chapter 6, Gatsby insists on introducing Tom as “the polo player” (111); “There’s sport for you,” says Tom with palpable envy, gesturing to a small sail pointlessly plying Long Island Sound on the hottest day of the summer (124)</i>
Jay Gatsby (“new money”)	<i>Hydroplaning (57; 68); “balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American – that comes, I suppose, with . . . the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games” (68); “Gatsby . . . with a cricket bat in his hand” (71); Gatsby makes his introduction to high society by climbing aboard the Lake Superior yacht of the millionaire Dan Cody (106); swimming in his pool (161)</i>
James Gatz (“working class”)	<i>His boyhood schedule lists “baseball and sports . . . 4:30–5:00” (181)</i>

2. *Discuss:* Identify the characters who are conspicuously absent from this list. Why might that be? What does Fitzgerald seem to suggest about the relationship between wealth, power, and sports?
(Answers will vary.)
3. *Write:* Craft a thesis statement that expresses how and why Fitzgerald uses the games people play to create meaning in *The Great Gatsby*.
(Answers will vary.)