

# 2005 secondary solutions the great gatsby answers

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The Great Gatsby: Unraveling the Nature of Masculinity\*\*

F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*, offers a deep exploration of masculinity through the complex character of Tom Buchanan. Tom embodies a certain type of masculinity that is both toxic and deeply ingrained in the societal norms of the time.

### **Tom Buchanan: A Symbol of Toxic Masculinity**

Tom showcases toxic masculinity through his actions and attitudes. He is physically imposing, dominating, and possessive of his wife, Daisy. He refuses to take responsibility for his own actions, blames others, and uses violence to assert his power. Tom's behavior reflects a patriarchal society that emphasizes aggression, control, and dominance as defining characteristics of manhood.

### **Jordan Baker: A Feminine Enigma**

Nick's observations of Jordan Baker provide insights into the complexities of female characters in *The Great Gatsby*. Jordan is an accomplished golfer, independent, and non-conforming to traditional gender roles. However, her cynicism and emotional detachment suggest a deeper level of dissatisfaction and isolation. Nick's descriptions of Jordan reveal the multifaceted nature of women in a society that often restricts and marginalizes them.

### **The Journey to New York: A Reflection of Tom's Dominance**

Tom and Nick's trip to New York demonstrates Tom's need to control and dominate his surroundings. He takes the lead in planning the excursion, decides on the destination, and insists on driving. Tom also picks up Myrtle Wilson along the way, further displaying his entitlement and disregard for social boundaries. This episode highlights the extent to which Tom's masculinity is based on his ability to wield power over others.

### **The Deeper Meaning of The Great Gatsby**

Beyond its exploration of masculinity, *The Great Gatsby* serves as a poignant commentary on the American Dream. It exposes the hollowness of materialistic pursuits and the futility of chasing after an elusive ideal. Gatsby's tragic downfall serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of living a life based on fantasy and the importance of facing reality.

### **Moral of the Story**

*The Great Gatsby* conveys a moral of self-responsibility and the consequences of one's actions. Tom Buchanan's destructive behavior leads to the unraveling of not only his own life but also that of Gatsby and Daisy. The novel emphasizes the need for honesty, integrity, and compassion in human relationships.

### **Three Main Points**

1. The destructive nature of toxic masculinity
2. The complexities of female characters in a patriarchal society
3. The futility of pursuing an elusive American Dream

### **Symbolism in The Great Gatsby**

The green light at the end of Daisy's dock symbolizes Gatsby's hope and longing for a past that he cannot recapture. Owl Eyes serves as a witness to Gatsby's death, representing the judgment of society on his extravagant lifestyle.

### **Tom Buchanan's Personality**

Tom Buchanan possesses a personality characterized by arrogance, cruelty, and a need for control. He is a bully who uses his wealth and status to intimidate others.

Tom's toxic masculinity manifests in his treatment of Daisy, his extramarital affairs, and his dismissive attitude towards those he considers beneath him.

### **Presentation of Masculinity in The Great Gatsby**

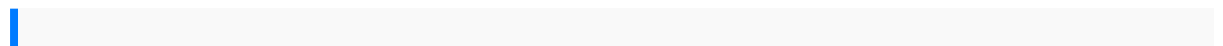
The Great Gatsby presents masculinity as a fluid and complex concept. While Tom Buchanan embodies a highly dominant and destructive form of masculinity, other characters like Gatsby and Nick challenge these norms by exhibiting vulnerability, idealism, and a willingness to defy societal expectations.

### **Masculinity in Other Works**

Masculinity is also explored in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, where the soldiers' possessions symbolize their complex and often contradictory identities. In John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, Lennie's size and strength represent a physical masculinity that is juxtaposed with his mental disability.

### **Tom Buchanan: A Complex and Flawed Character**

Tom Buchanan is a complex and flawed character who serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of toxic masculinity. His actions and attitudes reflect the patriarchal norms of the time, but they also reveal the destructive consequences of living a life based on dominance and control. *The Great Gatsby* remains a timeless exploration of masculinity, female characters, and the complexities of human relationships.



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