Reflective Statement

**Prompt:** How was your understanding of cultural and contextual considerations of the work developed through the interactive oral?

**Work Used:** The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

In our interactive orals conducted in class, we discussed the cultural and contextual considerations of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s, The Great Gatsby. During our discussion, we discussed F. Scott Fitzgerald’s background and how it influenced his writing, the time it was written in and how it affected the layout of the story, and World War I and how everyone’s love life was affected.

Through our discussion, we came to an agreement that the novel being written in the Jazz Age greatly affected how it was set up. One of my classmates told us that in the Jazz Age everyone seemed to be wealthy and everyone seemed to be partying, smoking, drinking, etc. Furthermore, many men and women had affairs, which is evident within the novel. Dance and music was a great part of the Jazz Age, mainly after World War I. In our discussion, we discussed that dance and music took the “dark mood” of World War I away which is why dance and music were very big parts of Gatsby’s party.

Another major part of our discussion was prohibition. Many students didn’t know what prohibition was, so to clarify we said it was where the production of alcohol was considered unlawful by the 18th amendment. Prohibition also had a great impact on the novel. When it was not in place, women were afraid that their husbands would get drunk and harm the family, so it was supported by women. On the other hand, some people against prohibition were the Auxiliary Caravan for Women. Prohibition led to the decrease of jobs and bootleggers were created. Bootleggers set up “pharmacies” in which they sold alcohol. People could not live without it, so bootleggers made tons of money. With further discussion, we came across the point that people would do anything for alcohol. They would go to the “big parties” where there was alcohol and just stay; They didn’t even know whose party they were at.

By discussing the meaning of “flat-footed men,” we concluded that those who were rich found love, and those who weren’t didn’t so easily. The rich didn’t serve in the military because they had enough money to change what their family doctor put on their record. So, the rich stayed around to find girls and fall in love while many relationships were broken of the poor since they had to go out to war.