

KCS High School Outside Reading 2018-2019

The students must read two books before August 31st, 2018:

1. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
2. Mindset: The New Psychology to Success by Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D.

1. After reading “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, students will write a five-paragraph essay (each paragraph must consist of at least 7 sentences) based on ONE of the following prompts:

- a) A symbol in a novel is a concrete object that represents an idea or a set of ideas. Choose three major symbols in the book. Explain what those symbols mean and how they function together to support a central theme. (Hint: to respond to this prompt, you will have to identify what theme is being supported.)
- b) One of the main themes of the novel is how illusion is mistaken for reality. Illustrate how this is true in the various party scenes, in the empty gestures and speeches of the main characters, and in the basic fabric of Jay Gatsby’s life.
- c) Analyze the portrayal of wealth in the novel—the difference between “old money” and “new money” as well as the things that money can and cannot buy. What is Fitzgerald ultimately trying to say about money and materialism and why? What does Gatsby’s rise and fall say about the pursuit of wealth and status in the world of the novel?

2. After reading “Mindset - The New Psychology to Success” by C.S. Dweck, the students will write a timed reflection essay during the 1st quarter on what it means to develop a growth mind set, how it affects relationships, academic life, and success in general.

The students’ essays must contain **ONLY SHORT** phrases as quoted textual evidence!

The essays will receive a test grade. The assignment is due on August 31st, 2018. Please note, the novels will be discussed in English classes during the first quarter.