

## The Great Party

Characters:

Summer Season (rich hostess):

Autumn Falleaves (average girl):

April Showers (rich friend):

Narrator:

No Curtain.

No Scenery.

(Summer Season is standing at the front door waiting for her guests to arrive.)

**Narrator:** This skit is based on the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, called The Great Gatsby. The issue faced is understanding the meaning of true friendship. The time is December 31, 1999 at nine o'clock in the evening. The setting is a fancy New York mansion, during a large New Year Celebration. (The music begins and the guests start to arrive.) Summer Season begins to greet her first guest, April Showers.

**Summer:** Hey, April. I'm glad that you could make it.

**April:** I wouldn't miss one of your parties for a shopping spree in Italy.

**Summer:** Oh, I know you wouldn't. And the fact that you just came back from Italy doesn't have anything to do with it. So where did you get your outfit, Paris, London, or Rome?

**April:** Oh, this old thing, I picked it up at least a week ago, during our trip to the Caribbean. Those merchants don't know a good thing when they've got it.

**Summer:** Oh yeah, I know what you mean. They just don't understand the meaning of luxury like we do.

**April:** Speaking of luxury, are you going to offer me something to drink, or am I going to have to die of thirst.

**Summer:** Oh yeah, what do you want, imported wine or champagne?



**April:** I'll have a glass of champagne, please. Of course, I'm assuming it's the best there is. You couldn't possibly expect us to drink cheap champagne, could you?

**Summer:** Of course not, we only serve Cristal.

**April:** I'd certainly hope so. Who are you inviting to this thing anyway?

**Summer:** Oh, all the usual celebrities.

**April:** Who is that girl by the fountain? She is wearing last week's fashion!

**Summer:** I know, she needs to get up to date. Where are the fashion police?

**April:** So, who is she, and how did she get into one of your exclusive parties?

**Summer:** I don't know, my mom must have invited her.

**April:** Your mom needs to stay out of your invitations. We can't let average girls in, and ruin our social status.

**Summer:** I know! I never talk to them anyways, so if we ignore her, maybe she'll just disappear.

**April:** I've got a better idea. Let's make things interesting and place a little bet.

**Summer:** What kind of bet?

**April:** I bet you can't make this girl your friend by midnight, without using your money or position as an influence.

**Summer:** You have got to be kidding! Why would I want to place a bet like that?

**April:** To prove me wrong, because I don't think you can do it! You've never even associated with anyone who has less money than you do, so you obviously lack the social skills.

**Summer:** Hey, when it comes to social skills, I'm the Queen, and you're the Princess.

**April:** If that is a fact, then you won't have any trouble proving it to me, will you?

**Summer:** Well fine then, I will.

(The two girls shake hands to make the deal final.)

**Narrator:** While the two girls were talking, all the guests arrived, and the dancing began. Summer and April separated, while trying to think of ways to show off. Summer began flirting and greeting other guests, while April was showing a group of



dimwitted teens her new outfit. Secretly, Summer was working out the finer details of her plan to become friends with the average girl and April was trying to make Summer look bad.

**Summer:** Hey, how are you doing.

**Autumn:** Oh, um, I'm doing fine. Great party.

**Summer:** Oh, I know. Mine always are. Oh, I mean, thanks.

**Autumn:** Oh, well, I would not know. This is the first one I have been to.

**Summer:** Oh, well, I hope you have fun.

**Autumn:** I bet I will.

**Summer:** Well I will see you later.

**Narrator:** Summer retreated from her attempt to become friends, and went to join April and her groupies.

**April:** So how did it go?

**Summer:** Fine I guess.

**April:** You better get cracking, 'cause you don't have much time.

**Summer:** I know, I know.

(Summer walks off. She heads toward Autumn and her group.)

**Summer:** I hope you all are having a good time.

**Autumn:** Oh, yeah, we're having a great time.

**Summer:** So do you guys need anything? Drinks? Food? A taxi home?

**Autumn:** No, that's okay.

**Summer:** I was wondering if you could help me with something in the library.

**Autumn:** Of course, anything for the nicest person in this neighborhood.

**Summer:** How do you know I'm nice?

**Autumn:** Well, you have these expensive parties, and you allow people from East Egg to join.



**Summer:** Umm, well yes, you are always welcome in this part of town.

**Autumn:** Well thank you.



**Summer:** Anyways, are you knowledgeable when it comes to books, particularly in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby? I can't figure out whether to put it in the classics or the fiction section.

**Autumn:** Oh, I figured that you would have a maid for that sort of thing. But in my opinion I think it should be in the classics.

**Summer:** Oh, that's interesting. So what are your interests?

**Autumn:** I like lots of stuff, but my favorite activities are reading and swimming.

**Summer:** What about shopping?

**Autumn:** Uh, I like it, but I don't do it very often.

**Summer:** Why not?

**Autumn:** Well, I don't have much time with my after school activities and a part-time job.

**Summer:** You have to work?

**Autumn:** Yeah, don't you?

**Summer:** Heck no! Why would I work?

**Autumn:** For experience.

**Summer:** Of course, why didn't I think of that!

(Awkward silence.)

**Summer:** Sooooo.... How about a drink?

**Autumn:** Sure! Is it free?

**Summer:** Of course! Anything for a friend, right?

**Autumn:** Then I'd loved one.

(They start walking towards Summer's personal bar and have a seat.)

**Narrator:** Summer and Autumn spent hours laughing and talking about past life experiences.

They began to realize just how much they really did have in common, and they make plans to spend time together for the following day. Autumn excuses herself claiming that the liquor has gotten to her and that she would soon return.

(April now approaches Summer while sitting alone at the bar.)

**April:** Why are you sitting by yourself, where'd your new best friend go to?

**Summer:** Well, she's actually a pretty interesting girl once you get to know her.

**April:** Well she should be, you have been talking for hours. Looks like you will win that bet after all.

**Summer:** Are you jealous?

**April:** Jealous! Jealous of what? There is nothing in that average girl to be jealous about.

**Summer:** Gosh, you really are turning out to be a snob.

**April:** You know, I learned from the best.

**Narrator:** The two young ladies exchanged some more harsh words and soon afterward April stormed off toward the group standing by the pool.

(Autumn approaches the bar yet again and sits with Summer.)

**Narrator:** Looking distraught, Summer tells Autumn about her ordeal with April. She then apologizes profusely and tells Autumn that although she had made the bet, she felt differently now.

**Summer:** I am truly sorry. I feel like tonight has changed my perspective entirely. I will no longer judge people based on their bank account.

**Autumn:** You know what?! Let's just put the past behind us. I forgive you.

**Summer:** I'll tell you what, let's take a shopping trip tomorrow, on me!

**Autumn:** You don't have to pay for my friendship, but I would enjoy your company.

**Summer:** Wow! I've never had a friendship like this, it's nice.

**Autumn:** In some strange way, I pity you.

**Narrator:** The two women laugh together and make plans for the following day. They then say their goodbyes.



(Summer then gets up and walks by the pool intending to head inside, where she is approached by April.)

**April:** Soooo..... does Autumn know about our little bet yet?

**Summer:** Yes, but we've talked about it and have been able to see past it, maybe you should try seeing past the surface.

**April:** I can't believe someone like you is giving advice to me.

**Summer:** I don't see how you have any friends, but I'm not going to spend my time trying to understand you. I must be heading in.

(Summer begins to walk off when she is grabbed violently by April.)

**April:** I'm not finished with you yet!

**Narrator:** A drunken April pulls a gun out in her jealous rage and shoots Summer in the stomach.

(A dead Summer falls into the pool.)

**Narrator:** After seeing the incident, Autumn runs over towards the pool astonished.

**Autumn:** How could you do this? What is the matter with you?

**April:** I...I... didn't mean to kill her, I mean, well.... She deserved it anyway. I mean, I just did her a favor. Could you imagine what her reputation would be like after associating with someone like you. Everyone saw her, they would all talk.

**Autumn:** You know, I hope you get back in life what you have given!

**April:** Well maybe I will!

(At that, April pulls out the gun and shoots herself.)

**Narrator:** The police are called, and they come and go. The night passes through. A funeral is scheduled a few days later for Summer, however, Autumn is the only one to show up, a true friend.

**The Task:**

Several of the novels and short stories you have read this year are tales about characters dealing with society. The way they react to societal issues reveals their philosophies, moralities, and character trait. For example, Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* learns to live outside of society while Jay Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby*, compromises himself to live within society. Reading these pieces of literature causes one to think about his/her own place in society and his/her individual ways of dealing with societal issues.

Your task is to write a script of a dramatic scene in which two characters depict their response to a societal issue. The setting you choose, as well as the issue, must be relevant to the present. The script must include references, interpretations, and judgments. You and your partner will provide feedback for each other’s script.

**Circumstances of Performance:**

The student work is produced under the following conditions:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alone            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in a group               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in class         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as homework              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> with teacher feedback       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with peer feedback       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timed                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> extended project         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no opportunity for revision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> opportunity for revision |

**What the work shows:**

**Writing**

**E2b** The student produces a response to literature that:

**E2b.1** engages the reader through establishing a context, creating a persona, and otherwise developing reader interest **(D)**

**E2b.2** advances a judgment that is interpretive, analytic, evaluative, or reflective **(E)**

**E2b.3** supports a judgment through references to the text, references to other works, authors, or non-print media, or references to personal knowledge **(F)**

**E2b.4** demonstrates understanding of the literary work through suggesting an interpretation **(G)**

**E2b.5** recognizes possible ambiguities, nuances, and complexities

**E2b.6** provides a sense of closure to the writing. **(H)**

- A. Overall, this piece is a very clever and interpretative skit that draws many themes and motifs from *The Great Gatsby* and uses them to create characters that are recognizable in a modern context. While the play may not work perfectly as a work of literature, it advances several interpretation of the novel. Specifically, the

play advances the themes of empty wealth, the hard reality of wealth destroying beauty and friendship, and the violence of society.

- B. The list of characters engages the reader through tongue in cheek names. The connection to *Gatsby* is made immediately because of the similarity of characters: rich hostess (Daisy? or even Gatsby himself), average girl (Myrtle or even Nick), rich friend (Jordan?).
- C. Here the author refers directly to *Gatsby* and states an interpretation of the novel as a tale of true friendship. The mansion setting and celebration also mirror the scenes from the novel. This reference to the novel is engaging because it causes the viewer to look for connections between the skit and the novel.
- D. Here there are several connections to the original work. There is the sense of the importance of fashion in an empty society – an important interpretation.
- E. “Expensive parties” and “East Egg” are direct references to the Great Gatsby. The line also shows an understanding of the range of people who attended Gatsby’s parties.
- F. Here is a direct reference to the novel that includes the interesting question of whether or not the novel is a classic. It also provides humor to the play.
- G. Whether or not the rich are to be pitied and whether or not the rich are shallow and callous are important questions for any interpretation of the novel. The sincerity of the relationship between Gatsby and Daisy is mirrored in the budding friendship between Autumn and Summer.
- H. This is a succinct summary of one of the most important themes in the novel – that of looking past the surface.
- I. The vapid rich girl shines through just as Daisy and Tom show their true colors as those who smash things up and then carry on.
- J. This particular scene does not work in light of the novel, since Tom’s violence in the novel goes unpunished. It is only the innocent husband of Myrtle who does violence to himself.
- K. Here is a quick and satisfactory closing of the play, but also a final reference to *Gatsby* since Autumn’s solitary attendance at the funeral is analogous to Nick’s presence at Gatsby’s funeral.

**\*Note: Errors in syntax do not significantly impact the message in this piece of work.**