

Appendix 4.2. Group 2: The Feminist Approach (Teacher Answer Key)

1. *Read:* Compare and contrast the main male athlete in the novel with the central female athlete. Examine passages specified below (pagination refers to the 1995 Scribner paperback edition).

Point of comparison	Tom Buchanan	Jordan Baker
Type of Athlete/Sport	College football hero (10; 122) Polo player (111)	Amateur golfer (23)
Description of the Body	capable of enormous leverage . . . cruel (11); "great pack of muscle" still visible in his back and shoulders (17); "thick" (122); "his hands out a little from his body as if to fight off interference" (186)	"erect carriage . . . like a cadet" (15) "slender muscles in her arms"(22)
Physical Movements	"always leaning aggressively forward" (11) "Tom Buchanan compelled me from the room as though he were moving a checker to another square" (16)	"rapid, deft movements" (15); "a jauntiness about her movements as if she had first learned to walk upon golf courses on clear, crisp mornings"(55)
Clothing	Nick tells us <i>twice</i> that Tom is dressed in riding clothes (11)	"I noticed that she wore her evening dress, all her dresses, like sports clothes" (55)
Ethics & Moral Character	Tom hurts Daisy's finger (16), breaks Myrtle's nose (41), and causes injury to a chambermaid when he drives a car off the road (82). In addition to adultery and domestic violence, Tom is racist and possibly associated with betting on the polo ponies.	Jordan cheats. "At her first big golf tournament . . . a suggestion she had moved her ball from a bad lie in the semi-final round" (62) Gatsby tells Nick, "Miss Baker's a great sportswoman . . . she'd never do anything that wasn't all right" (76)

2. *Discuss:* How does being an athlete affect their relationships with the other major characters (Daisy, Gatsby, and Nick)? Are Tom and Jordan equally defined by their sports identities? To what extent do they resist those definitions? To what other imagery patterns, symbols, or themes can you link these gender issues?
(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.)