Sample Journal Entry: Chapter 1—Pages 1-21

Name: Johnny Appleseed

1. This first chapter shows protagonist Nick Carraway’s background and his traveling to New York to visit his cousin, Daisy Buchanan. He meets Daisy and her husband Tom outside their home. As Nick returns home that first night, he sees a mysterious man from the dock reaching out towards a green light on the other end of the bay.
2. A. I chose the character Daisy Buchanan.

B. “I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can hope for in this world, a beautiful little fool” (Fitzgerald 8). I chose this line because I found it very interesting, especially coming from Daisy, who seems a little bit like a pretty yet air-for-brains girl herself. However, while she may put on a dumb front with this line, it may also show that Daisy is smart and knows how to “play the part” in order to get what she wants.

C. I chose Daisy because even though I dislike her character, I find her interesting. I think she tries to act silly, but has really come to the point in life where she feels that as a woman, she can only be a trophy wife to Tom. Daisy does not really act or think for herself; she only cares about what she has, even putting that above her baby daughter.

1. I really like the book so far. I think all the characters, especially Daisy, will have big parts to play. Daisy seems to like Nick very much, but much like she only appears to care about superficial things, I can’t decide yet whether she only likes Nick superficially as well. She certainly does not seem to think for herself much, as she always listens to what her controlling husband Tom has to say.
2. My favorite quote from this chapter was Nick’s first description of Gatsby: “He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and I could have sworn he was trembling involuntarily ... at a little green light at the end of the dock on the opposite end of the bay” (Fitzgerald 20-21). It stood out to me because I thought it was beautifully written and a mysterious line at the same time, and will have a part to play soon, too.