*The Great Gatsby* Found Poems (Woldendorp 5th and 6th period)

“The Past” (Zach, Cole, Hannah, Evan)

Can’t repeat the past?…Why of course you can!

There are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and the tired.

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.  
I hope she'll be a fool -- that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.  
Angry, and half in love with her, and tremendously sorry, I turned away.

I wasn't actually in love, but I felt a sort of tender curiosity.

She had told him that she loved him, and Tom Buchanan saw.  
It takes two to make an accident.

Let us learn to show our friendship for a man when he is alive and not after he is dead.

So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight.

“Green Love” (Alissa, Connor, Tyler, Sara)

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past

Angry, and half in love with her, and tremendously sorry, I turned away

Just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had

In the early morning the sun threw my shadow

On Sunday morning while the church bells rang

The tears coursed down her cheeks

Distinguished nothing except a single green light

I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before

I was scared, I can tell you; I’d never seen a girl like that before

Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be across the bay

“Goodbye, Old Sport” (Aislinn, Alison, Chris, Max)

What’s your opinion of me anyhow?

You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together

There was something gorgeous about him, some heightened sensitivity to the promises of life

Gatsby believed in the green light

He came alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor.

Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you can

I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before

His dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it

He paid a high price for living too long with a single dream

Blessed are the dead that the rain falls on

And the holocaust was complete

“Her Presumptuous Love” (Katia, Cade, Katie, August)

You must know Gatsby, what Gatsby?

Across the courtesy bay

the white palaces of fashionable East Egg,

glittered along the water.

Gatsby revealed everything in his house

According to the measure and response it drew,

From her well-loved eyes.

It makes me sad because I’ve never seen,

such-such beautiful shirts before.

There must have been moments,

even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams

not through her own fault,

but because of the colossal vitality of his illusions.

I don’t think she ever loved him.

“Blood Bath” (Nicole, Anton, Malik, Blair, Cole, Abdulaahi)

Careless people don’t stop their car

Big yellow car passed down the road. Going forty then fifty, sixty

Her hands waved as she rushed down into the road

The newspapers called it the “Death Car”

His foot came down hard and the coupe raced along

For a moment tragically wavered

Thick blood covered the road

Myrtle’s body mingled with the Dust

Shots heard!

Thin red circle in the water

Wilson’s body off in the grass

LIVES VIOLENTLY EXTINGUISHED

“Am I in love?” (Sebastian, Carlos, Jackson, Nick)

I wasn’t actually in love

I was within and without

Let us learn to share our friendship

So we beat on, boats against the current

Life starts all over again,

I couldn’t forgive him or like him

What he had done was justify

His heart was in a riot

I felt a haunting loneliness

So we drove on towards death

“The Good Old Days” (Matt, Caitlin, Carson, Justin)

Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be just across the bay.

He smiled understandingly.

It was one of those rare smiles.

He was consumed with wonder at her presence.

It excited him, too, that many men had already loved Daisy—it increased her value in his eyes.

I did love him once, but I loved you too.

I felt far away from her. It’s hard to make her understand.

I’m going to fix everything, just the way it was before.

Now it was a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.

So we drove on towards death through the cooling twilight.

“The Death of the Green Light” (Kaela, Aleea, Madisen)

Old sport

 You can't repeat the past

I'm going to fix everything just the way it was before

She's never loved you. She loves me

Her voice is full of money

I hope shell be a fool – that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us

It takes two to make an accident

Don't believe everything you hear...

That doesn’t matter now

“The Eyes that Watched the Valley” **(**Manon, Subha, Ricardo, Tao)

This is a valley of ashes

a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges

and hills and grotesque gardens

where ashes take the forms houses and chimneys and rising smoke

and, finally, with transcendent effort, of men who move dimly

and already crumbling through powdery air.

A new world material without being real

where poor goes breathing dream like air drifted fortuitously about

like that ashen fantastic figure gliding toward him through the trees

So, we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight.

But above the grey land

and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it

you perceive, after a moment

the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg,

which had just emerged, pale and enormous, from the dissolving night.

And God knows what you’ve been doing

everything you’ve been doing

You may fool me but you can’t fool God.

“Careless Money” (Julia, Allison, Hudson, Thinh)

The one on my right was as mansion inhabited by a gentleman named Gatsby

Gatsby, who represented everything I have an unaffected scorn for

I disapproved of him from beginning to end

Gatsby loved Daisy, my cousin, gleaming like silver, above the poor’s struggles

Daisy, the best thing a girl can be: a beautiful little fool

Her voice full of money

Tom, one of those men who reach such excellence young, that life is anticlimactic

Together, they smashed up things and retreated back into their money

Me, my family have been prominent in the middle-west for three generations

I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known