

 Prestwick House

Instant Short Story Pack



Each pack contains:

- Objectives
- Full Text of Story
- Student Questions
- Activities and Graphic Organizers
- Teacher Answer Guide

The Ice Palace

BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1, 3, 4, 5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1, 4, 5



Objectives:

After completing the activities in this packet, the student will be able to:

- cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text (RL.9-10.1; 11-12.1),
- analyze how complex characters...develop over the course of a text...and advance the plot or develop the theme (RL.9-10.3),
- analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place...) (RL.9-10.4; 11-12.4), and
- analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text...create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise (RL.9-10.5; 11-12.5).

Time:

3-5 class periods

Materials:

✓ 1 copy of each handout per student:

- **Handout #1** (3 pages) – Purpose-setting and Motivational Activities
- **Handout #2** (25 pages) – Text of Story
- **Handout #3** (1 page) – Student Questions
- **Handout #4** (11 pages) – Activities and Graphic Organizers

✓ Teacher Answer Guide

Procedure:

1. Reproduce all handouts.
2. Distribute **Handouts #1** and **#2**.
 - Allow students to read the short biography of Fitzgerald (approximately 10 minutes).
 - Read and discuss the information about Fitzgerald's work and ideas (approximately 20 minutes).
 - Assign the story to be read for homework (might require 2 nights' reading) OR
 - Allow students to read the story in class (might take 2 class periods).
 - Have students perform the two **As you read...**activities.
3. Distribute **Handout #3**.
4. Give students time to read the questions (approximately 5 minutes).
5. Review with students what each question is asking for and what type of information is required for a thorough answer (e.g., references to prior knowledge, quotations from the story, additional reading or research, etc.).
6. Distribute **Handout #4**.
7. Walk the class through Question 1, demonstrating that in order to address a complex issue, it is often helpful to divide it into smaller subtopics. Students can then use the ideas generated by each subtopic to build a complete and thoughtful answer to the full question.
8. Have students answer the questions.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Ice Palace

The story you are about to read is one of the earliest pieces by a writer who has become one of the most prominent icons of United States literature. In fact, “The Ice Palace” was published only a month or so after *The Great Gatsby*, the novel that thrust F. Scott Fitzgerald into the national spotlight, was released. Like many of Fitzgerald’s stories, “The Ice Palace” explores the differences between the North and the South. It is somewhat autobiographical: The two main characters are a southern woman and a northern man who are engaged to be married. Fitzgerald, raised in the northeast part of the country, wrote this story while he was engaged to Zelda Sayre, who was from Alabama. They had been married about a month when the story was published.

The plot is simple, almost clichéd. The ending is predictable. The point in reading the story, then, must lie in something other than simply watching Sally Carrol and Harry Bellamy’s romance and engagement play out. As you read the story, examine all of the contrasts Fitzgerald sets up for his readers: South and North, sluggishness and energy, warmth and cold, light and dark.

What happens to Sally Carrol inside the ice palace is clearly more emotional than physical. What she experiences in the cold darkness is called an epiphany, and if you can understand what it is she realizes while she is alone and frightened, you will have solved the puzzle of this parable.

“The Ice Palace” is more than just a “boy meets girl” story. It’s more than just a “South versus North” story. It explores some aspect of human nature and comes close enough to some truth that it helped launch Fitzgerald’s career as a leading American author.

Before you read:

Know something about the life of the author:

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on September 24, 1896. His family was originally from Maryland and moved to Minnesota after the Civil War. He was distantly related to Mary Surratt, who had been hanged in 1865 as a member of the conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. He was also distantly related to—and named after—Francis Scott Key, who wrote the poem that eventually became the national anthem of the United States.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Ice Palace

Lexile Measure: 1070L

I

THE SUNLIGHT DRIPPED over the house like golden paint over an art jar, and the freckling shadows here and there only intensified the rigor of the bath of light. The Butterworth and Larkin houses flanking were entrenched behind great stodgy trees; only the Happer house took the full sun, and all day long faced the dusty road-street with a tolerant kindly patience. This was the city of Tarleton in southernmost Georgia, September afternoon.

Up in her bedroom window Sally Carrol Happer rested her nineteen-year-old chin on a fifty-two-year-old sill and watched Clark Darrow's ancient Ford turn the corner. The car was hot—being partly metallic it retained all the heat it absorbed or evolved—and Clark Darrow sitting bolt upright at the wheel wore a pained, strained expression as though he considered himself a spare part, and rather likely to break. He laboriously crossed two dust ruts, the wheels squeaking indignantly at the encounter, and then with a terrifying expression he gave the steering-gear a final wrench and deposited self and car approximately in front of the Happer steps. There was a plaintive heaving sound, a deathrattle, followed by a short silence; and then the air was rent by a startling whistle.

Sally Carrol gazed down sleepily. She started to yawn, but finding this quite impossible unless she raised her chin from the window-sill, changed her mind and continued silently to regard the car, whose owner sat brilliantly if perfunctorily at attention as he waited for an answer to his signal. After a moment the whistle once more split the dusty air.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Ice Palace

STUDENT QUESTIONS:

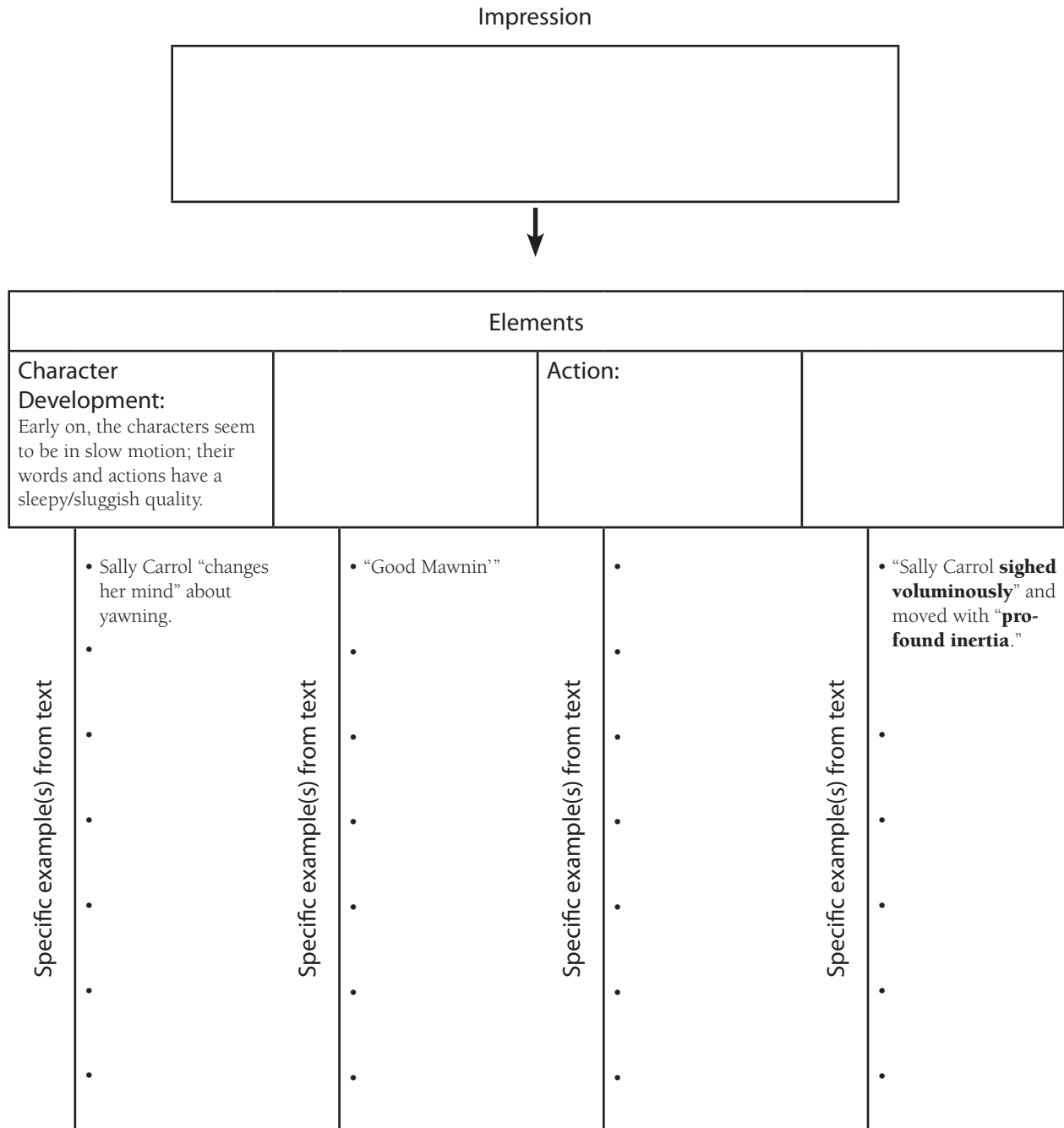
1. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4; 11-12.4) What impression of the deep South does Fitzgerald create in section I? How does he create this impression?
2. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3) Early in section II, the narrator says, “Sally Carrol had several rather clearly defined sides.” How accurate an assessment does this turn out to be? Why? Examine Sally Carrol’s character and the techniques Fitzgerald uses to reveal it to the reader. Be certain to provide textual support for all of your claims and assertions.
3. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3) Does Sally Carrol’s character drive the plot of this story, or is the plot merely the vehicle Fitzgerald uses to reveal Sally Carrol’s character? Be certain to provide evidence for all of your claims and assertions.
4. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; 11-12.1) Does Fitzgerald favor the North or the South in this story? How can you tell?
5. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.5; 11-12.5) The scenes that open and close this story are similar but not identical. What do the differences between the two episodes suggest about Sally Carrol’s development as a character? About the point Fitzgerald hoped to illustrate?

ACTIVITIES AND GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS:

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Ice Palace*

Question 1: What impression of the deep South does Fitzgerald create in section I? How does he create this impression?

STEP 1: Use the following chart to jot down and organize your ideas as you analyze section I of the story. In the uppermost box, briefly describe the overall impression the section gives you of Sally Carrol and her friends and their lifestyle.



STEP 2: As you examine section I, consider how each of the indicated literary elements helps Fitzgerald convey the overall impression you described. For each literary element, cite specific examples from the text that show how the element adds to the impression.

STEP 3: You should now be able to construct a thoughtful and complete answer to Question 1.