**AP LANGUAGE SUMMER READING – SAMPLE JOURNAL ENTRY**

**(remember – you must have FIVE journal entries with each of these elements)**

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Pages read: 23- 38

**Prediction**

**Based upon my prior readings, I predict** that Tom’s affair will come to light and ruin his marriage.

**I made this prediction based on the following evidence from the book:** At the lunch at the Buchanon’s, Jordan states that she “thought everyone knew” that Tom was having an affair. (Page 15).

**This evidence supports my prediction because**: it shows that Tom is unable to keep his affair a secret.

**Questions/Connections**

Who is Dr. TJ Eckleburg?

I recall growing up in a poor neighborhood, which although not as dismal as Fitzgerald portrays the “Valley of Ash” shared some similarities.

Does George know about Myrtle’s affair with Tom?

**Perspective**

The billboard which features the eyes of Dr. TJ Eckleburg is very interesting to me. A reference to a billboard, especially to open a chapter, seems odd and almost misplaced. This makes me think that the image of the doctor’s eyes or glasses could become an important symbol in the story. Eyes often symbolize what people see or the fact that someone is watching or knows what is going on. The introduction of this image makes me think that perhaps all the character’s secrets will be discovered by the end of the novel. Additionally, the image of the run-down, old billboard helps to add to the bleakness of the Valley of the Ashes.