

The Jazz Age Packet

Directions: Read Document A-C. They are on the website.

Source D: Excerpt from Marcus Garvey's autobiography, written in September 1923.

My downfall was planned by my enemies. They laid all kinds of traps for me. They scattered their spies among the employees of the Black Star Line and the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Our office records were stolen. Employees started to be openly dishonest. . . . I had to dismiss them. They joined my enemies, and thus I had an endless fight on my hands to save the ideals of the UNIA and carry out our program for the race. My negro enemies, finding that they alone could not destroy me, resorted to misrepresenting me to the leaders of the white race, several of whom, without proper investigation, also opposed me. . . .

My trial is a matter of history. I know I was not given a square deal, because my indictment was the result of a "frame-up" among my political and business enemies. . . .

The temporary ruin of the Black Star Line in no way affected the larger work of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, which now has 900 branches with an approximate membership of 6,000,000. . . .

Being black, I have committed an unpardonable offense against the very light colored negroes in America and the West Indies by making myself famous as a negro leader of millions. In their view, no black man must rise above them. . . .The Universal Negro Improvement Association has been misrepresented by my enemies. They have tried to make it appear that we are hostile to other races. This is absolutely false. We love all humanity. . . .

We believe in the purity of both races. . . . It is cruel and dangerous to promote social equality, as certain black leaders do. The belief that black and white should get together would destroy the racial purity of both.

We believe that the black people should have a country of their own where they should be given the fullest opportunity to develop politically, socially and industrially.

Historical Context	
Intended Audience	
Purpose	
Point of View	
Outside Information	

1. Why was Marcus Garvey a controversial figure? Why? Your response must be 9-15 sentences in length and must use evidence from all four sources.

The Lost Generation

Many Americans were shocked by the horrors of World War I. They thought that something must be very wrong with traditional values if those values caused World War I. Nothing could excuse the death and destruction that young men and women experienced during the war. American writers traveled to Europe in search of inspiration. They hoped to create something new in a land where the old world had been destroyed. These Americans were expatriates, or people who choose to live in a foreign country.

American writer Gertrude Stein spent most of her life in France. She described these wandering Americans as the Lost Generation. These writers included F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, and Stein herself. They were “lost” because they felt strongly that something was wrong but did not know what to do about it. They wrote stories and poetry that criticized consumer society.

The novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda, spent many years traveling in Europe. They mostly traveled throughout France. In his book *Tender is the Night*, Fitzgerald wrote about how his generation was damaged emotionally by World War I. According to Fitzgerald, they were dedicated “to the fear of poverty and the worship of success.” This description reflects the commercialism in the United States.

Fitzgerald’s most famous novel is *The Great Gatsby*. The main characters are obsessed with money and how to spend it. They go to lavish parties and are always looking for entertainment. Their relationships are based on lies. Fitzgerald was speaking out about his problem with people who care more about social position and money than personal relationships.

Ernest Hemingway was another famous novelist who spent many years living in Europe. The characters in his books *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* are members of the Lost Generation. William Faulkner’s story “The Bear” tells the story of a boy coming to terms with the adult world by learning to hunt. The story celebrates pride, humility, and courage. Faulkner feared that these qualities were being lost as Americans left the country for the city. He thought that people needed to be connected to nature. Industrialization took that away. Sinclair Lewis wrote about small-town life in his novel *Babbitt*. He showed how consumerism and conformity in American values created boredom and destroyed happiness.

During the 1920s, many American writers and thinkers studied the effects of a changing American society on those men and women who grew up during World War I. Their works reveal the problems of the Jazz Age.

1. How did life change the way the famous artists mentioned above created their art and literature?
2. How did literature respond to the cultural changes of the 1920s? 4-6 Sentences

Document: Langston Hughes Poem

I am fed up
With Jim Crow laws,
People who are cruel
And afraid,
Who lynch and run,
Who are scared of me
And me of them.
I pick up my life
And take it away
On a one-way ticket
Gone Up North
Gone Out West
Gone!

Historical Context	
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Design A Flapper

Directions: You will be drawing your own flapper. You may need to research what flappers looked like. After completing your drawing, you will explain how your person is a flapper. What features show that they are a flapper.