The Roaring Twenties Pathfinder
Background Information for Reading *The Great Gatsby*

**I Introduction:**
The 1920s in U. S. history was a time of tremendous economy growth for the middle class and wealthy, while being tempered by great social change. These changes to social norms had both a positive and negative impact on the quality of life of our forefathers. Many people began to live beyond their economic means, buying stock on margin (10 cent for each dollar purchased) without having the cash to actually pay for it when the stock market declined which helped cause *The Great Depression* in 1929. Sort of like our current economic mess which was partly caused by people buying homes with sub-prime mortgages approved by banks and lending institutions in the 2000’s, and not being able to pay the mortgage when the interest rates went up on their homes. As you read about the U.S. in the 1920s think about the stories you would have written if you lived during this time period.

**II References**
- R 031 WOR World Book Encyclopedia
- R 973 ADA The March of Democracy, vol. IV
- R 979.7 CAM Snohomish County: an illustrated history, chapter 7
- R 920s - Biographical Dictionaries

**III Premium Databases** (see brochure for usernames and passwords)
- Gale Virtual Reference Library (multiple reference databases under a single search engine) [http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/snoh11355](http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/snoh11355)

**IV Links in the Subject Area Sites**
Scroll down to the history section where you’ll find several links under U.S. History that cover the 1920s. [http://glacierpeak.sno.wednet.edu/Page/2418](http://glacierpeak.sno.wednet.edu/Page/2418)

**V U.S. History Textbook**
The American Republic: since 1977. (Read chapters 15, 16 and the first section of chapter 17)

**VI Non-fiction Books**
973.91 are where you will find non-fiction books on U.S. history that cover both the 1920s and the 1930s. Also, you can read (909.82 NAT) National Geographic: Eyewitness to the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century and (917.3 TIM) Time-Life’s This Fabulous Century: 1910 1920.
You can find a lot of good primary and secondary resources on the Internet. However, pay close attention to whom or what group wrote the information (authority control) on the web site you are looking at. Is it a university site, historical society, or a corporation which produces resources on this time era? Here are a few sites which might help you with your search:

http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1920s.html
http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/01/mayhem/part1.html
http://www.besthistorysites.net/USHistory_Roaring20s.shtml
http://www.infoplease.com/ipp/A0005247.html
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=441
http://www.lessonplanspage.com/more/LASSGG3Prohibition912.html
http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/