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**English III**

“Winter Dreams”

**Directions**: As you read “Winter Dreams” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible.

1. Are your feelings about what has happened to Judy Jones the same as Dexer’s? Explain your answer.
2. How do you account for Dexter and Judy’s attraction?
3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Judy Jones and Dexter Green treat other people? What else do you like or dislike about them?
4. How worthwhile do you find Dexter’s “winter dreams”? Think about what his dreams are, what he gains from the dreams, and what he loses because of the dreams as you consider your answer.
5. At the end of “Winter Dreams,” Dexter accepts the fact that he has lost Judy, and accepts also “the deep pain that is reserved only for the strong” since he had also, “tasted for a little while the deep happiness.” He does, however, receive a shock at the end that alters his vision of the golden world he experienced for a time. When a business associate tells him that Judy has lost her beauty and her vitality, his dream shatters and he breaks down, overcome by a profound sense of loss. Joseph Flibbert, in his critique of the story in the Reference Guide to Short Fiction, argues, “As long as he could maintain a vision of Judy as the embodiment of genteel youth and beauty, he could continue to believe in an attainable ideal of power, freedom, and beauty.” The world now becomes cold and gray with no point to the accumulation of material objects. Struggling desperately to regain that vision, Dexter tries to picture “the waters lapping on Sherry Island and the moonlit veranda, and gingham on the golf-links and the dry sun and the gold color of her neck’s soft down,” but cannot, insisting, “these things were no longer in the world! They had existed and they existed no longer.” He finally understands that he can never follow the same vision that had compelled him to travel in one direction all of his life. All he is left with now is a sense of emptiness, for “even the grief he could have borne was left behind in the country of illusion, of youth, of the richness of life, where his winter dreams had flourished.” **When is it enough? When do we have enough material possessions to gain contentment?** Use examples from the story or from your own experiences in your answer.