

# Contents

Series Foreword, xiii Acknowledgments, xv Introduction: The Jazz Age and the Culture of Change, xvii Chronology of the Jazz Age, xxiii

Babbitt (Sinclair Lewis, 1922), 1
 Synopsis of Babbitt, 1
 Historical Background: Babbitt and the Perils of Progress and Prosperity, 3
 About Sinclair Lewis: The Man Who Defined Babbittry, 7
 Why We Read Babbitt, 10
 Historical Explorations of Babbitt, 13
 Documenting Babbitt, 22
 The Religion of Business in the Jazz Age, 22

Document: From "Passing Our Tenth Milestone," Paul P. Harris, 1915, 23

Document: From *The Man Nobody Knows*, Bruce Barton, 1925, 24

Conformity in the Jazz Age, 28

Document: From "Knowledge in Contempt in America, Believe Europeans," H. L. Mencken, 1925, 29

Suggested Readings, 31

## 2 The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925), 35

Synopsis of The Great Gatsby, 35

Historical Background: *The Great Gatsby* and the Culture of Contradiction, 37

About F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Man Who Wrote the Jazz Age, 42

Why We Read The Great Gatsby, 46

### Historical Explorations of The Great Gatsby, 50

Documenting The Great Gatsby, 60

The Automobile and the Jazz Age, 60

Document: From "How Many American People Can Afford Automobiles?" 1922, 60

Document: From "Your Car and You," 1920, 61

Document: From "On Which Side of the Windshield Do You Do Your Cussing?" H. I. Phillips, 1927, 62

Prohibition and Bootleggers, 65

Document: From The Volstead Act, 1920, 65

Document: From "Nation-Wide Prohibition Ends Fight of 112 Years," 1920, 70

Document: From "Volstead Law Draws Attack of Opponents," 1925, 72

Document: From "Rich Bootleggers Sent to Prison," 1923, 74

Celebrity Culture in the Jazz Age, 76

Document: From "The Secret of Charlie Chaplin's Popularity," St. John Ervine, 1921, 77

Document: From "Chance Writes the Lindbergh Saga," 1927, 80

Document: From "My Friend Babe Ruth," 1924, 83 Suggested Readings, 90

3 Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Anita Loos, 1925), 93 Synopsis of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, 93 Historical Background: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes and the Gender Politics of the Jazz Age, 96 About Anita Loos: A Life in Words and (Motion) Pictures, 99 Why We Read Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, 103 Historical Explorations of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, 106 Documenting Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, 114 The Flapper, 114 Document: From The Flapper, 1922, 115 Document: From "Flappers Flaunt Fads in Footwear," The New York Times, 1922, 116 Document: From "The Flapper-A New Type," Alfredo Panzini, 1921, 117 Document: From "Her Eternal Youth," New York Times, 1922, 120 Hollywood and the Motion Picture Revolution, 123 Document: From "Youth, the Spirit of the Movies," David Wark Griffith, 1921, 123 Document: From "Flappers Here to Stay, Says Colleen Moore," Gladys Hall, 1922, 124 Document: From "The Monstrous Movies," Charles Hanson Towne, 1921, 125 Document: From "Through Hollywood with Gun and Camera," Robert E. Sherwood, 1922, 127 Suggested Readings, 129 The Sun Also Rises (Ernest Hemingway, 1926), 131 4

Synopsis of *The Sun Also Rises*, 131 Historical Background: Hemingway, Paris, and the Modern Moment, 133 About Ernest Hemingway: The Man Who Wrote the Lost Generation, 137

Why We Read The Sun Also Rises, 141

### Historical Explorations of The Sun Also Rises, 144

Documenting The Sun Also Rises, 154

The Lost Generation, 154

Document: From *Exile's Return: A Literary Odyssey of the* 1920s, Malcolm Cowley, 1934, 154

Document: From "American Bohemians in Paris," Ernest Hemingway, 1922, 155

Document: From *Being Geniuses Together 1920–1930*, Robert McAlmon and Rev. Kay Boyle, 1968, 156

Document: From Paris Was Yesterday. 1925–1939, Janet Flanner, 1972, 158

The Art of the Bullfight, 160

Document: From *Being Geniuses Together 1920–1930*, Robert McAlmon and Rev. Kay Boyle, 1968, 160

Document: From "Bull Fighting a Tragedy," Ernest Hemingway, 1923, 162

Document: From "Pamplona in July," Ernest Hemingway, 1923, 163

Race, Ethnicity, and the Ku Klux Klan, 164

Document: From "For Christian-Jewish Friendship HP," *The Literary Digest*, 1922, 164

Document: From "New York and the Real Jew," Rollin Lynde Hartt, 1921, 166

Document: From "The Klan Walks in Washington," *The Literary Digest*, 1925, 169

Document: From "Klan and Church," Lowell Mellett, 1923, 172

Document: From "A Judicial Spanking for the Klan," *Literary Digest*, 1928, 180

Suggested Readings, 184

#### 5 Passing (Nella Larsen, 1929), 189

Synopsis of Passing, 189

Historical Background: Passing and the Harlem Renaissance, 190

About Nella Larsen: A Life on the Color Line, 193

Why We Read Passing, 196

### Historical Explorations of Passing, 199

Documenting Passing, 207

The Harlem Renaissance, 207

Document: From *The Big Sea*, Langston Hughes, 1940, 208 Document: From *Negro Life in New York's Harlem*, Wallace Thurman, 1928, 210

Document: From "'Charleston' Dance Sweeps New York City by Storm; Louis Chalif Is Forced to Instruct in Dance That Is Distasteful," Maxine Davis, 1925, 211

The African American Elite, 213

Document: From "The Talented Tenth," W. E. B. Du Bois, 1903, 213

Document: From "The Task of Negro Womanhood," Elise Johnson McDougald, 1925, 215

Race and the Eugenics Movement in the Jazz Age, 217

Document: From "Eugenics Seeks to Improve the Natural, Physical, Mental and Temperamental Qualities of the Human Family," Eugenics Record Office, 1927, 218

Document: From "Fitter Families for Future Firesides," 1924, 220

Document: From "Body of Woman Shown to Jury," *The Florence* [AL] *Times*, 1925, 222

Suggested Readings, 223

Index, 227