Group members: Ty price, Olivia Slade

Jazz and American modernism

Rasula, Jed. "Jazz and American Modernism." *Cambridge companions online (*2006): 157-176. *Bowlin Alley.* Web. 22 October 2015.

•“The word ‘jazz,’ in its progress toward respectability, has meant first sex, then dancing, then music. It is associated with a state of nervous stimulation, not unlike that of big cities behind the lines of war (Rasula 1)."
•"But if jazz was merely distasteful to some –'a low streak in man’s tastes that has not yet come out in civilization’s wash' (Rasula 1)."
•"Gibson Girl to bobcut flapper was brought about (so it appeared) by the ceaseless incitement to sensual dancing by 'jazz' (Rasula 2)."
•"Even proponents of jazz recognized that commercialism was a liability, subjecting positive aspects of the music to ceaseless repetition as well as propagating saccharine varieties more amenable to public consumption (Rasula 3)."
•"Although the stock market crash reduced record sales in the US from 128 million in 1926 to six million in 1932,by 1934 the complaint of “overproduction” was still being mad (Rasula 3)."“Terminological uncertainty was rampant in the transition from rags to jazz because, in social terms, the distinction was unclear. Between them, ragtime and jazz pioneered the infusion of dominant white culture by African-Americans, particularly leisure activities like social dancing, cabaret and show music"(Pasula 4),"
•"Incarnating unbuttoned postwar swagger, jazz could appear 'very American in its snap, speed, smartness and cosmopolitan character' (Rasula 3)."
•"Jazz was the right music for an energetic nation, and in the most positive spirit, it signaled a coming-of-age on the world stage –'a genuine contribution to the gaiety of nations,”as an English admirer put it, possibly even 'the National Anthem of Civilization' (Rasula 3)."

These elements all connect with The Great Gatsby and the four topics, Jazz Age, The roaring 20's, Social class and status in the 1920's, and women and marriage in the 1920's. Some of these elements relate to the Jazz age because they talk about what Jazz means to people and how a lot of parties played Jazz music. Some other elements connect with the roaring 20's because it talks about how people started to act differently around this time and great it was to live in America in this time period because of all the different opportunities there are. some also relate to social class and status because most of the lower class listened to Jazz and they danced to it irresponsibly and how it was a "low streak in man's tastes." Women and marriage in the 1920's also connects with these element because women started to change how they acted and looked during this time because of Jazz, marriage wasn't as popular and divorce rates went up during this time because the married couples were jealous of the singles and how they were enjoying themselves and unattached.