Gatsby Party

Guests & Décor

* Create an invitation for the party which includes the actual date and time (when listing start time, provide 15 minutes for preparations) of the party but which reflects the 1920s style. This invitation will be given to the principal, assistant principal, instructional coach, teachers, etc., so be sure to proofread the invitation.
* Compile a “guest list” that includes three people from each of the following categories: (1) business, (2) popular entertainment (movies, sports, singers, etc.), (3) government/politics, (4) the arts (painting, sculpture, classical music, etc.), & (5) the mob. In a short presentation on the day of the party, each “guest” should be presented visually in some way (student actor or photo) and should be identified by name and significance.
* Prepare, arrange, decorate the room for the party. You may need to consult other groups to see what their needs are (space, tables, etc.).

Fashion

* Research the fashion of the 1920s and compile a list of do’s and don’t’s. How was fashion changing? What types of attire were popular? Consider different occasions or types of clothing (casual, formal, swimwear, sports, etc). Also, consider all aspects of fashion, including accessories, shoes, makeup, hair, etc. Don’t forget to address the men’s fashion as well as the women’s fashion.
* Prepare a fashion show that depicts the findings of your research. Have a script that describes the fashion of each model and that explains how the fashion choices reflect the historical, cultural, and social background of the 1920s. You can enlist “models” for your fashion or you can prepare some other form of presentation for the fashion show.

Caterers

* Research popular or new foods from the 1920s. Include different courses (from appetizers to desserts) and don’t forget the beverages (non-alcoholic, of course!).
* Create a menu/catering plan. The menu should detail the different dishes that will be served. The menu should reflect the style of the 1920s in design and content. Also, consider how the food and drink will be presented (table?, table cloth?, candles? cups, plates, napkins? organization?).
* Organize the complementary food as well, i.e., have your classmates sign up to bring food in addition to the 1920s food your group will provide and present. Don’t forget the plates, napkins, forks, cups, etc.
* On the day of the party, provide a sampling of each of the items on your menu and present your menu/catering plan to the class, explaining the significance of each item.

Entertainment

* Research the popular entertainment of the 1920s, considering music, dance, & games. What were the popular songs? Who were the popular artists? What styles of music and dance were popular? What games were people playing?
* Prepare a 1920s music compilation to be played at the party. Learn and be able to perform some 1920s dances. Prepare some games for your guests to play.
* On the day of the party, explain your music choices to the class and present your dance. You might also choose to have a dance lesson or dance off for the class. Explain your game choices and be sure your guests have the opportunity to participate in these activities! You should have the activities planned, organized, prepared, everything! Remember, it’s your group’s job to be sure your guests are entertained and having a good time.

At the beginning of class, you will have 15 minutes to be ready to start. This includes setting up, changing clothes, etc. Be ready to start at the appropriate time.

ALL STUDENTS can receive extra credit for dressing in 1920s fashion. The amount of extra credit depends on the quality of the fashion --- are you just wearing a strand of pearls or a hat? That won’t get you much. But if you look like an authentic 1920s flapper, mobster, athlete, etc., you can earn up to 10 points. This presentation counts as a test grade.

Also, ALL STUDENTS are responsible for clean up at the end of the party. Be sure all trash is thrown away, spills are cleaned up, supplies are returned, etc. Failure to clean up will result in a reduction in grades.