**Empathy (noun)**

/ˈempəTHē/

The action (the capacity) for:

Understanding

Being aware/sensitive

Vicariously experiencing:

Thoughts, Feelings, experience

Of another.

As in: *understanding* what it is to walk in another’s shoes

And acknowledging their path is **real**

And their *pain* is real

---- Yet knowing it is *theirs* and not *yours* to explain.

As in: Experiencing another’s agony in your gut

*Feeling* heart-wrenching, tear-jerking emotion

For a soul and a body beyond your own.

As in: Not synonymous with “sympathy”

Or feeling “bad”

Or “guilty”.

As in: Orienting yourself in the perspective of another

“Allowing” them to feel

Because you have felt too.

As in: listening, caring, experiencing, acknowledging that

Someone else’s experience

Is just

As REAL

As yours.

**Directions:**

Write a Definition poem defining one of these big ideas in *The Great Gatsby*:

*society, compassion, deceit, love, American Dream, wealth, poverty, dissatisfaction, achievement, isolation, fate, greatness, beauty, success, memory, time, loyalty, truth, morality, class, greed, opulence*

**Your poem should be from the perspective of one of the main characters of Gatsby: Gatsby, Daisy, Nick, Tom or Jordan**

Directions: Create your own Definition Poem using “Calamity” and “Empathy” as an example. Your poem must include…

* Your chosen word as the title, separated into syllables
* A pronunciation guide for your word
* The part of speech of your word
* A dictionary definition (or definitions) of your word
* At least three “As in:” stanzas. These must give examples of usage of the word to further **show** what the word means to you. In those stanzas, underline or *italicize* the word so that it stands out.