Clare's Poem

Roaring drunk is what Nick likes to call it.

A dulling of the senses, a haze to ease your mind,

But he's only lived here two months.

To New Yorkers, alcohol is clarity.

Oh, I wish he would flirt with me a little.

You can never really tell until after midnight, anyway.

Another glass, please sir, oh *thank you* sweetheart,

Tell me, who is that strapping man over there?

The cobblestones that flow underfoot are shining,

Our still little carriage is littered with wet sky.

Oh Nick, I whisper, will you come watch me play?

He kisses me hard on the mouth, and my worry

That he's too clever vanishes again.

Well. I'd always wondered where he lived.

It becomes a problem when I'm at tea with another

And all I can think about are his fancy words

And those nights where thoughts are undisturbedly provoked.

Gatsby's tonight, the message says.

I laugh, and call for the car and a bottle of anything.

Well. The champagne will do, I muse.

Won't it? He asks, concerned, shrewd brows crinkling.

But I only said it to evoke that very face.

I swim in Gatsby's pool—not the one outside,

The one with bourbon-soaked memories

And dark depths in which to lose yourself.

Nick whispers sweet nothings and replenishes me,

And the liquor seeps in to fill the last cracks,

Just as the words I love you die on my lips.

1. Identify Choices

Clare was allowed to choose any character, so she chose Jordan, even though Jordan is not named in the poem.

2. Identify the Task

Clare was asked to determine how Jordan's point of view would differ from Nick's. Moving into first person helps her accomplish this.

3. Find Support

Clare gathers support for her interpretation of Jordan's perspective from scenes that did or could take place in the novel.

4. Organize

Clare separates her poem into two stanzas and uses the first to set the scene and the second to dive more deeply into Jordan's thoughts and point of view.

5. Draw Conclusions

By the end of her poem, Clare uses metaphors to convey not just Jordan's literal experience but also her feelings.