The Great Gatsby—Anticipation Guide

Directions: Each of the following quotes comes from our next novel, The Great Gatsby. Please read through each quote, think about the point that each is making, and then choose EIGHT of the quotes. In your notebooks, please defend, refute or qualify each statement and write a two or three-sentence rationale to support your stance.

1. “I hope she’ll be a fool. That’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.”
2. “There are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and the tired.”
3. “Let us learn to show our friendship for a man when he is alive and not after he is dead.”
4. “Reserving judgments is a matter of infinite hope.”
5. “No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart.”
6. “The loneliest moment in someone’s life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly.”
7. “His dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him.”
8. “‘Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,’ he told me, ‘just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.’”
9. “It occurred to me that there was no difference between men, in intelligence or race, so profound as the difference between the sick and the well.”
10. “You see, I usually find myself among strangers because I drift here and there trying to forget the sad things that happened to me.”
11. “‘Can’t repeat the past?’ he cried incredulously. ‘Why of course you can!’”
12. “It takes two to make an accident.”
13. “Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that’s no matter—to-morrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther...And one fine morning—So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”
14. “Life is much more successfully looked at from a single window.”
15. “Human sympathy has its limits.”