

The Great Gatsby

Introduction to The Great Gatsby

For each of the following values and aphorisms (a statement of truth) below, write an “A” if you “agree”, a “D” if you “disagree”, and an “N” if you are “neutral.”

1. Style is more important than substance.
2. Appearances may be misleading.
3. What you are is more important than what you have.
4. It’s better to have something than nothing at all.
5. Marriage should be built on love.
6. Don’t mistake fantasy for reality.
7. You can’t relive the past.
8. The present is always influenced by the past.
9. Money can’t buy happiness.
10. “Where there’s marriage without love, there’ll be love without marriage.” - Benjamin Franklin
11. Individuals should be responsible for their actions.
12. Being rich does not mean you can buy solutions to your troubles.

Choose 1, 2, or 3 of the above statements, and write a response explaining why you put an “A”, “D” or “N” and what the statement means in relation to the way the world works and your life.

Reading Guide – Chapter One

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

1. Why do you think Fitzgerald use Nick’s point of view to narrate Gatsby’s story?
2. What do you learn about Nick Carraway’s background?
3. When he discusses East Egg and West Egg, Nick comments, “To the wingless a more arresting phenomenon is their dissimilarity in every particular except shape and size”. What are the “dissimilarities” between these two regions?
4. How are the homes of Nick, Gatsby and the Buchanans similar and different? How do the homes reflect the personalities of each owner?
5. What impressions do you get about Gatsby from this chapter?

Reading Guide – Chapter Two

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

6. What new atmosphere is introduced in the opening paragraphs of chapter two? What is symbolic about the “valley of ashes” and the “eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg”?
7. Who is Mrs. Myrtle Wilson? Describe her. What is her apartment like?
8. Who is at the party? What do they talk about?
9. How do Tom and Myrtle meet?
10. Does Nick enjoy the afternoon out with Tom? Why or why not?

Reading Guide – Chapter Three

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

11. What happens when Nick attends Gatsby’s “little party”?
12. Who does Nick meet up with? What is his opinion of this person from this point to the end of the evening?
13. How does Nick meet Gatsby? Describe their meeting. How does Fitzgerald establish and incorporate Gatsby into the story?
14. What is Nick’s impression of New York? What has his experiences been like?
15. Why does Nick say, “Everyone suspects himself of at least one of the cardinal virtues, and this is mine: I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known”? Has he demonstrated this virtue already? How?

Reading Guide – Chapter Four

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

16. Nick comments on a list he compiled of all of Gatsby’s guests; how do they behave towards Gatsby? Why do they accept his hospitality?
17. What is Nick’s impression of Gatsby? How has it changed? What details does Gatsby reveal to Nick about his past? Does Nick believe Gatsby?
18. Who is Mr. Meyer Wolfsheimer? Describe him. What is his connection to Gatsby?
19. What is the story that Jordan Baker tells Nick regarding Tom Buchanan, Daisy Buchanan, and Gatsby? Summarize the story.

20. How has Gatsby asked Jordan help him during the party in chapter two? What is this plan he devised that involves Nick? Why did he not ask Nick directly?

Reading Guide – Chapter Five

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

21. What's Nick's reaction to seeing Gatsby's house on fire? What's Gatsby's reaction?

22. What does Gatsby do to prepare for Daisy's arrival at Nick's house? Describe his actions.

23. What does Gatsby do once Daisy arrives? Is he nervous? How do you know this? What does Gatsby do to impress her?

24. What is the significance of the "green light"? What does it represent?

25. Is Nick affected by the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy? How?

Reading Guide – Chapter Six

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

26. What is the dirt that has been uncovered about Gatsby's past? What is his real name? Why has he changed it? Who is Dan Cody? What's his involvement in Gatsby's past?

27. Why does Tom attend Gatsby's party? How does Gatsby approach Tom? What are Tom's feeling and actions in regards to Daisy's behavior during the party?

28. What suspicions does Tom have about Gatsby? What does he vow to do?

29. What do Nick and Gatsby talk about after the party?

30. What is Gatsby expecting of Daisy that prompts Nick to warn him, "I wouldn't ask too much of her... You can't repeat the past"?

Reading Guide – Chapter Seven

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

31. What has Gatsby changed in his lifestyle that concerns Nick? Why did Gatsby make these changes?

32. What is Daisy's attitude towards her daughter, Pam? Is she a good mother? Why did Gatsby look at her daughter "with surprise"?
33. As the party moves to town, who are the drivers? Which car does each driver drive? Who are the passengers? What are the arrangements when they drive away from town?
34. What's the matter with Mrs. Myrtle Wilson when Tom, Nick and Jordan stop at the gas station? What does Tom learn about regarding Myrtle?
35. Why does Tom challenge Gatsby's past? What is he trying to prove? How does Daisy and Gatsby react to Tom's questions?
36. Does Daisy know what love is? Whom does she really love? Why?
37. How is each major character involved in the tragedy that occurs at the end of this chapter? What happens? Who is Michaelis?
38. Why does Nick remember it is his birthday? What is the significance of his announcement?
39. What conclusions does Nick reach after observing Gatsby, Tom, and Daisy?
40. How do eyes play a role in this chapter? What do they represent? Look on pages 122, 124 and 140.

Reading Guide – Chapter Eight

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

41. What is the new information revealed about Gatsby when he talks to Nick? Why does he speak freely to Nick now?
42. Why is Gatsby so attached to Daisy? Describe their relationship.
43. Why does Nick remark to Gatsby, "They're a rotten crowd. You're worth the whole damn bunch together"? Who does Nick refer to? Why are they "rotten"?
44. How does Mr. Wilson view the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg? What does his statement, "God sees everything" mean? How does this contribute to the purpose of the novel as whole? Explain your ideas.
45. What were the movements of Gatsby and Wilson at the end of Chapter 8? What happened at the end of this chapter? What are Nick's thoughts regarding what occurred?

Reading Guide – Chapter Nine

Directions: Preview the questions for each chapter, before you read. Answer the questions as you read or as a review of the reading.

46. Why does Nick feel responsible for the funeral arrangements? What did he do?
47. What version of the tragedy appeared in the newspapers? Why does this version went unchanged and unchallenged?
48. How had Gatsby's father learned of the tragedy? How well does he know his son?
49. What is the irony of Gatsby's funeral? What happened?
50. What happens between Nick and Jordan Baker? Explain what occurs between them and why it does.
51. What moral judgment does Nick make about Tom and Daisy? Explain.
52. How does the last page of the novel explain Gatsby's dream? How does this relate to a utopia and dystopia?

Character Chart

Character	Description	Color	Significant Quotes
Nick Carraway			
Tom Buchannan			
Daisy Buchannan			
Miss Jordan Baker			
Mr. Jay Gatsby			
Mrs. Myrtle Wilson			

Mr. Wilson

Mr. Meyer Wolfsheim

Doctor T.J. Eckleburg

Character Analysis

In groups of 4 to 5, answer the section that pertains to your selected character. Your group also needs to create a visual aid that represents your character. When you have finished, your group needs to “teach” your character to the rest of the class. Also, individually, you need to present your 1920’s information to the class during this time.

Nick Carraway

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?

Tom Buchanan

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?

Daisy Buchanan

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?

Jay Gatsby

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?

Jordan Baker

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?

George Wilson and Myrtle Wilson

Physical Description _____

Personality Description _____

Relationships _____

Profession _____

What does this character represent in the text? To the other characters?
