

Name:

The Great Gatsby – Study Guide

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
2. What is the significance of the white space between paragraphs 4 and 5?
3. From what part of the country does Nick originally come?
4. Why has Nick moved to New York?
5. How does Nick come to live next door to Jay Gatsby?
6. Where had Nick known Tom Buchanan before?
7. What is Jordan Baker's relationship to Daisy Buchanan?
8. What does Nick learn from Jordan when Tom is called to the phone?
9. What is the "secret society"?
10. What does Nick see Gatsby doing at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2

1. What is the Valley of Ashes literally?
2. Who or what is Dr. T.J. Eckleburg?
3. What is George Wilson's occupation?
4. What items does Myrtle purchase in the city?
5. What is the significant about Myrtle's questioning whether the dog is a boy or a girl?
6. Who is Catherine?
7. What effect does the change of dress have on Myrtle?
8. How does Myrtle talk about the help at the hotel?
9. What rumor has Catherine heard about Gatsby?

10. How does Catherine explain to Nick about the affair of Myrtle and Tom?

Chapter 3

1. What kinds of cars does Gatsby use to transport guests?
2. How do the guests behave?
3. What does Nick wear to the party?
4. How does Gatsby interact with the guests?
5. What observation does Owl Eyes make about Gatsby's library?
6. What is Nick's first opinion of Gatsby?
7. What happens at the end of the party as the guests are leaving?
8. What does Gatsby's formal gesture of waving farewell remind us of?
9. What does Nick recall about Jordan, and what is the catalyst for his remembering?
10. How does Nick provide a contrast, a foil character, to Jordan?

Chapter 4

1. What is the date at this point in the novel?
2. Whom does Nick encounter at Gatsby's party?
3. What is the suggestion about Henry L. Palmetto's death?
4. In the description of Gatsby's car, what is the significance of its being bright with nickel and swollen in its monstrous length with all kinds of boxes?
5. What phrase does Gatsby repeatedly use to address Nick and others?
6. In what country did Gatsby receive a medal "For Valour Extraordinary"?
7. Who fixed the World Series in 1919, according to Gatsby?
8. Why is Daisy's reputation so pristine?

9. For how long has Gatsby been pursuing Daisy?

10. What phrase keeps coming back to Nick?

Chapter 5

1. Why does Nick say Gatsby's house looks like the World's Fair?

2. How does Gatsby's gardener help prepare for Daisy's visit?

3. How does Gatsby dress for the rendezvous with Daisy?

4. Who is the Finn referred to in Chapter 5?

5. How long has it been since Daisy and Gatsby had seen each other?

6. What does Gatsby's maid do when leaning out a central bay window?

7. In what way are the various rooms in Gatsby's mansion described in historical terms?

8. Who was Gatsby's first benefactor?

9. What part does nature play in the rendezvous?

10. Who provides the musical background for the love scene?

Chapter 6

1. In what state did Gatsby grow up?

2. What was his real name?

3. What was Dan Cody's background?

4. Who was Ella Kaye?

5. How much was to have been Gatsby's inheritance from Cody?

6. Why did he not receive it?

7. What is the significance of the threesome not waiting for Gatsby?

8. Why was Daisy appalled at Gatsby's party?

9. How did Tom charge Gatsby with making his money?
10. In what season of the year had Gatsby met and kissed Daisy?

Chapter 7

1. Why does Gatsby let all his domestic help go?
2. Why is Gatsby so disconcerted when he sees the Bunchanan child?
3. How deftly does Fitzgerald handle the mechanics of getting the people to New York?
4. What does Wilson do to Myrtle? Why?
5. What does Gatsby think about Daisy's relationship with Tom?
6. Why does Gatsby insist that Daisy say she never loved Tom?
7. What happens on the way home from New York?
8. How does Tom react the death of Myrtle?
9. Why does Gatsby take the blame about the accident?
10. What is the true relationship between Daisy and Tom by the end of this chapter?

Chapter 8

1. What does Gatsby tell Nick about his past? Is it true?
2. How satisfactory is Nick's explanation of Gatsby's attraction to Daisy?
3. How do you explain Gatsby's remark that Daisy's love for Tom was insignificant because it was just "personal"?
4. Why did Myrtle run?
5. Why does Wilson believe Gatsby is a killer?

6. What does Wilson do?

7. Do we accept as coming from Fitzgerald himself Nick's pronouncement that Gatsby is worth the rest of the others?

8. What is ironic about Gatsby's demise?

Chapter 9

1. What is saddening about Wolfsheim's not coming to Gatsby's funeral?

2. Why does Fitzgerald introduce the character of Mr. Gatz?

3. What do we learn about Gatsby's dream-future in his ledger in his copy of the Western novel?

4. What does Nick say about people like Daisy and Tom? How are we to judge Nick's reaction to Tom and Daisy?

5. What happens between Nick and Jordan Baker?

6. Why does Nick return to the Midwest?

7. What significance lies in the passage about the Dutch sailors, about the boats going against the current?