

F. Scott Fitzgerald THE GREAT GATSBY

“Gatsby?” asked Daisy urgently. “What Gatsby?”
Could it be the same young army lieutenant Daisy Fay met five years ago – and who owns a sumptuous house on Long Island, where New York society enjoys the best parties on offer? As one man’s mysterious dream moves towards its ultimately tragic conclusion, Midwesterner Nick Carraway is drawn into the dark world of Gatsby’s past and present – a world of hidden frustrations and superficial relationships which perfectly illustrates the “careless and confused” nature of America’s Jazz Age.

In this reader you will find:

- Information about F. Scott Fitzgerald’s life
- Sections focusing on background and context
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension activities
- C1 Advanced-style activities
- Exit test

Tags

Love Society

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F. Scott Fitzgerald

THE GREAT GATSBY



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Book brief

- 1 *The Great Gatsby* is a 1925 novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- 2 The story is told through the character, Nick Carraway, who describes his relationship with the mysterious millionaire, Jay Gatsby.
- 3 The story is set in the mid-1920s during the Jazz Age on Long Island, near New York City.
- 4 It centers on Gatsby's obsession with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.
- 5 Main themes include the American Dream, class conflict and identity.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby

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For Review Only

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Main Characters

JORDAN BAKER



An amateur golfer, she's quite sarcastic but has been Daisy's friend for a long time.

TOM BUCHANAN



Daisy's husband and a millionaire, he's a strong, imposing man.

HENRY GATZ



Gatsby's father.

NICK CARRAWAY



He's the narrator of the story and is Gatsby's neighbor.

JAY GATSBY



A young, mysterious millionaire with strange business connections.

'OWL-EYES'



An eccentric drunk who wears glasses. Nick meets him at the first party he goes to at Gatsby's mansion.

DAN CODY



A multi-millionaire yachtsman who Jay Gatsby traveled with for five years.

MEYER WOLFSHEIM



Gatsby's friend, and an important figure in organized crime.

MICHAELIS



He owns and manages a restaurant and is George Wilson's neighbor.

MYRTLE WILSON



George's wife and Tom Buchanan's mistress.

GEORGE WILSON



A mechanic and owner of a garage. He is disliked by both his wife, Myrtle Wilson, and Tom Buchanan.

DAISY BUCHANAN



A shallow, young debutante and socialite from Louisville, Kentucky, she's Tom Buchanan's wife.

THE MCKEES



A married couple, he's a photographer.

CATHERINE



She's the younger sister of Myrtle Wilson and sister-in-law to George Wilson. She's a slim, worldly girl of about thirty.

EWING KLIPSPRINGER



He almost lives at Gatsby's mansion, taking advantage of his host's money.

DOCTOR T. J. ECKLEBURG



The eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg without a face are on a billboard advertising that he sells glasses.

Before you Read

Vocabulary

- 1 A** Here are the titles of the 9 Chapters in this book – but not in the right order!

A Trip to New York • Confrontation • Seeing the Light •
The Reunion • Chaos • Dinner with the Buchanans • The Plan •
The First Party • Important Meetings

Do they give you an idea of what type of story *The Great Gatsby* will be? Underline one or more of these categories:

horror story • romance • tragedy • thriller • detective story • historical drama • western • comedy

- 1 B** If you know something about the story already (perhaps you've read the blurb on the back of this book or seen the film version), discuss what you know in pairs or groups.

- 2** *The Great Gatsby* is set near New York City in the mid-1920s. It's about the lives of very rich people and the parties that rich people go to. What words do you expect to find? Make a list in the chart below.

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES	VERBS

Speaking

21st Century Skills

- 3** *The Great Gatsby* is set in America in the 1920s. This period is sometimes called “the Roaring Twenties”. Why do you think it was a “roaring” time? (If you look up the adjective “roaring” in the dictionary or online, it might help.) Discuss in pairs or groups.



Vocabulary

4 Match the words that mean the same.

- 1 ☐ lucky
- 2 ☐ hopeful
- 3 ☐ disgust
- 4 ☐ relative
- 5 ☐ restless
- 6 ☐ finance
- 7 ☐ intention

- a sicken
- b fund
- c optimistic
- d agitated
- e objective
- f fortunate
- g relation

Grammar C1 Advanced

5 Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the text below.

The Great Gatsby is the third novel by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald, first published in 1925. Fitzgerald (1) *The Great Gatsby* to be his greatest achievement at the (2) it was published, but neither critics nor the public were terribly enthusiastic about the book. However, in the 1950s, the novel (3) popularity and began to be studied on a regular (4) by high school students. It's now thought of as being one of the best examples of American fiction. The story is set in New York during the Jazz Age and (5) the story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and how he tries to win back the affection of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman he loved in his (6) The story is told by Nick Carraway, who describes what happens in the summer of 1922, after he goes to live in the (7) village of West Egg on Long Island. This is where the newly rich live, while his cousin Daisy, and her wealthy husband Tom, live in the more refined village of East Egg, which is situated across the water. As the summer progresses, at last, Nick is invited to one of the fabulous parties given by Jay Gatsby, his neighbor. This gives Nick the chance to get to know Gatsby better and they soon strike up a friendship.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 A considered | B inspected | C examined | D reviewed |
| 2 A stage | B era | C time | D age |
| 3 A earned | B gained | C won | D got |
| 4 A reason | B source | C period | D basis |
| 5 A reports | B unfolds | C recounts | D paints |
| 6 A youngster | B youth | C teenager | D adolescent |
| 7 A invented | B imagined | C devised | D fictional |

Dinner with the Buchanans

- 2 When I was younger and more vulnerable*, my father gave me some interesting advice.

“Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,” he said, “just remember that not everybody is as lucky as you are.”

That’s all he said - but I know he meant a lot more. I’m a reserved* person like my father and I understood him. I don’t judge too quickly, although my tolerance of people does have its limits.

Last autumn I came back home from the East and I wanted everybody to be morally perfect - I wanted no more partying, no more meeting people but never really knowing them. Only Gatsby, the central character of my story, escaped my demands: he was more successful, more sensitive, more hopeful than anyone I’ve ever met. *He* was all right in the end; the people around him were the ones who disgusted me.

In this Midwestern city my family has been important for three generations, and my father’s hardware* business was started by his great-uncle back in the mid-19th century. People say that I look like my distant relative - even though I never met him.

The East refers to the nine states in the Northeastern region of the United States: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the six New England states.

vulnerable more likely to be physically or emotionally hurt

reserved slow to reveal emotions or opinions
hardware metal tools

The Great Gatsby

After graduating from Yale in 1915, I served in The Great War. That experience made me restless and so on my return I decided to learn the bond* business and my father agreed to finance me for one year. That's how, in the spring of 1922, I came East... permanently, I thought.

Yale is a private university in Connecticut, founded in 1701.

I needed to find accommodation, so I was happy when a work colleague suggested we rent a house together in a nearby commuter* town. Unfortunately, at the last minute his company sent him to Washington and so I went to this simple old bungalow alone. I had a dog for a few days – before he ran away – an old Dodge car and a Finnish housekeeper.

Then one day a man who was even more a newcomer than me asked for directions to West Egg village. When I told him, I suddenly felt like a guide, a part of the neighborhood. The sunshine made me feel my life was beginning again: I bought a lot of books on banking and started reading as much as I had in college, with the intention of becoming a “well-rounded* man” again.

I was renting in one of North America's strangest communities. Long Island extends east of New York and around 20 miles from the city you find two unusual land formations, shaped like a pair of enormous eggs and separated by a small bay. I lived at the less fashionable West Egg, right at the end, 50 yards from the salt waters of Long Island Sound, and sandwiched between two enormous houses. The one on the right was like a French town hall, with a tower on one side, a marble swimming pool and more than 40 acres of lawn and garden. This was Gatsby's mansion*... but I didn't know him yet.

bond financial loan (repaid, with interest, in instalments)

commuter town person who travels a certain distance to work from where s/he lives

'well-rounded' (here) comprehensively educated, well-read

mansion a large, impressive house



From my own ugly house I could see the Sound and a part of his lawn, and I also had the comfort of knowing that I was surrounded by millionaires – all for 80 dollars a month!

My acquaintance with the fashionable white palaces of East Egg began one summer evening when I drove there to have dinner with my distant cousin Daisy Buchanan and her husband Tom, whom I knew from college. Tom came from a wealthy Chicago family and had been a football hero at Yale. He and Daisy had lived in France for a year and had then come East for some unknown reason. Daisy said they were here to stay but I didn't believe her. The reality was, I was going to have dinner with two old friends I hardly knew.

Their house was a red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion, with a line of French windows overlooking the bay. Tom was dressed in riding clothes and was standing in the sunshine on the front porch* – a sturdy* man of 30, muscular, with an aggressive manner and a rough tenor voice. Although we'd never been close friends, I think he had a good opinion of me and wanted me to like him.

"I've got a nice place here," he said in a restless tone, while pointing out the view to me. Then we went inside, to a rosy-colored drawing-room, where two young women sat at either end of an enormous couch. I didn't know the younger one but Daisy tried to get up and then laughed as I came hesitantly into the room.

"I'm p-paralyzed* with happiness," she cried, holding my hand and looking into my face. She murmured* the name Baker to indicate the other girl, who nodded at me, and then she started to ask me questions. She looked sad and lovely and there was excitement in her voice.

porch covered entrance
sturdy strong and healthy

paralyzed unable to move
murmur speak very softly



When I told her I'd spent a day in Chicago on my way East and had met a dozen people who sent their love to her, she asked "Do they miss me?"

"The whole town is desolate*," I replied.

"How wonderful! Let's go back tomorrow, Tom!" Then she said abruptly*, "You should see my baby, but she's asleep. She's three years old."

Meanwhile, Tom, who still seemed restless, put his hand on my shoulder and asked me what I was doing.

"I'm a bond man," I replied.

When I told him the name of the company, he just said, "Never heard of them."

I was annoyed at that. "You will, if you stay in the East."

Tom looked at Daisy and said confidently, "Oh, I'll stay in the East. I'd be foolish to live anywhere else."

Miss Baker said "Absolutely!" and then yawned and stood up. "I'm stiff from lying so long on that sofa," she complained.

"Well, I've been trying to persuade you all afternoon to come with us to New York," said Daisy.

As cocktails arrived, Miss Baker added, "No, thanks. I'm in training."

"Really?" cried Tom in amazement. "I don't know how you manage to do anything!"

I looked at Miss Baker. She was slim and she stood like a young cadet*. Her grey eyes looked back at me politely and I saw that she wasn't a happy person. I enjoyed looking at her and I was sure that I knew her from somewhere.

"You live in West Egg," she said in a superior tone. "I know somebody there."

"I don't know any---" I started to say.

desolate (here) extremely sad

abruptly in a sudden, unexpected way

cadet a young trainee in the army or police

The Great Gatsby

“You must know Gatsby.”

“Gatsby?” asked Daisy urgently. “What Gatsby?”

I was about to say that he was my neighbor when dinner was announced. Tom took my arm and led me out of the room, while Daisy and Miss Baker walked calmly outside onto the porch, where four candles flickered* on a table in the wind. Daisy put them out and said, “It’ll be the longest day of the year in two weeks’ time.”

“We should plan something,” said Miss Baker, in a bored tone.

Daisy turned to me. “What do people plan?” she asked, but before I could answer, she showed us her little finger.

“Look! I hurt it.” We all looked at her knuckle*, which was black and blue.

“You did it, Tom,” she said accusingly. “I know you didn’t mean to do it, but you DID do it! That’s the price I pay for marrying a brute* of a man – a big, hulking*, physical---”

“I hate the word ‘hulking,’” interrupted Tom angrily, “even if you’re joking.”

“Hulking,” repeated Daisy.

During dinner, Daisy and Miss Baker sometimes talked at the same time. It was always conversation without meaning – relaxed and with no passion. I realized that they were here simply to entertain or be entertained.

“I feel uncivilized in your company, Daisy,” I told my cousin during my second glass of wine. “Can’t you talk about crops or something?”

“Civilization is collapsing*!” Tom shouted. “I’ve become very pessimistic.”

flicker shine unsteadily

knuckle bony, protruding finger joint on the back of the hand

brute (here) brutal, insensitive person

hulking very big, awkward-moving

collapse fall to pieces

Writing

- 1** Think about the characters you've met in Chapter 1. Now write a sentence describing each of them. How are the characters connected?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Writing CI Advanced

- 2** Choose one of these two characters and write a letter (220-260 words).

Either

You're Nick. Write a letter of thanks to Daisy and Tom for the dinner. Say that you hope to see them again soon – and add anything else you think Nick would say, based on what you've read so far.

or

You're Daisy. Write a letter of thanks to Nick for coming to dinner. Say that you hope to see him again soon – and add anything else you think Daisy would say, based on what you've read so far.

Speaking 21st Century Skills

- 3** Do you think that the dinner party was a success? Why/why not? Will Nick see Daisy and Tom again soon? Will Daisy arrange for Nick and Jordan to be “thrown together”? Discuss in pairs or groups.



Reading

4 Correct this summary of the events of Chapter 1.

Nick Carraway is a middle-aged man from California who comes to Long Island in the winter of 1922. He rents a house in West Egg, a very fashionable area, next to a bungalow owned by a millionaire called Gatsby. Soon after he arrives, Nick is invited to dinner across the bay in East Egg by his niece Daisy Buchanan. There he meets Daisy's husband, Tom, whom he knew from college at Harvard. Tom plays tennis and is proud of his mansion and his marriage to Daisy. That evening Nick meets Daisy's neighbor, Jordan Baker, who's a professional golfer. She tells Nick that she's been to a party given by Mr Gatsby. Daisy tells Nick over dinner that she's unhappy and that she wants Nick and Jordan to see each other again. Nick goes home a little confused and sees Gatsby sitting on a chair, looking across Long Island Sound to a blue light on the other side of the bay.

Grammar

5 Use the information to make sentences and use one of the following reporting verbs.

suggest • agree • apologise • insist • complain • tell • ask • explain

1 Daisy / dinner / Nick / East Egg

2 newcomer / directions / West Egg village / Nick

3 Nick / Jordan / Gatsby / neighbor

4 Nick / Daisy / daughter / emotions

5 Tom / Daisy / 'hulking'

6 Daisy / Nick / wedding / war

7 Chicago / Nick / Daisy / desolate

8 Jordan / sofa / sit / too long

9 Tom and Daisy / dinner table

10 Daisy / Nick / summer weekends / Jordan

Writing

21st Century Skills

- 6 At the end of this Chapter, Nick sees Gatsby for the first time. What do you think Gatsby is thinking? Why does he stretch out his arms?

Write down some ideas and then discuss them with the class.



Vocabulary

- 7 Look at these groups of words. Can you find the odd one out?

- 1 sensitive – younger – successful – vulnerable – reserved
- 2 drawing-room – porch – library – veranda – couch
- 3 banking – hardware – commuter – tournament – colleague
- 4 annoyed – restless – sad – bored – happy

Reading Comprehension

- 8 Answer these questions (using complete sentences) about what happened in Chapter 1.

- 1 How often was dinner at the Buchanans interrupted and by what?
- 2 Why does Jordan Baker decide not to drink a cocktail?
- 3 What advice does Nick Carraway's father give him? (Use your own words.)
- 4 Which parts of the Buchanans' house are mentioned in this Chapter?
- 5 Why do you think Daisy asks the question "What Gatsby?" urgently?
- 6 What's Nick's opinion of Daisy by the end of the dinner party?

Reading

- 9 Identify who's talking.

- 1 "Is something happening?"
- 2 "I'm p-paralyzed with happiness"
- 3 "not everybody is as lucky as you are"
- 4 "I haven't heard a word!"
- 5 "I've become very pessimistic."

Pre-Reading Activities • Chapter Two

3 Listening

- 1 0** Listen to the first part of Chapter 2 and circle the words you hear from the list below.

East Egg • railway • four miles • desolate • West Egg •
ashes • smoke • train • screech • cloud • eyes • weather •
river • stop • woman • chair • greet • staring • foreign •
garage • pears

Speaking - Writing

21st Century Skills

- 1 1** Chapter 2 is entitled “A Trip to New York”. Can you predict what will happen in the city and what more will we learn about the characters involved?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Sequencing

- 1 2** Put these ten sentences into a possible order and then check your answer with the order of events in the next Chapter.

- A** ☐ Nick gets drunk.
B ☐ Nick and Tom catch a train to New York.
C ☐ Nick sees Tom’s mistress.
D ☐ A drinks party takes place in an apartment on 158th Street.
E ☐ Catherine Wilson talks to Nick about Gatsby.
F ☐ Tom breaks Myrtle Wilson’s nose.
G ☐ Myrtle Wilson tells Nick about the first time she met Tom.
H ☐ Catherine talks about unhappy marriages.
I ☐ Tom talks to George Wilson about a car.
J ☐ Myrtle Wilson travels to New York in a separate railway carriage.