

# *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925

## **List of characters**

Nick Carraway— narrator; sees life on East Coast w/ the values of someone from the Midwest

Tom Buchanan — Daisy Buchanan's husband; very wealthy, old money; lives on East Egg

Daisy Fay Buchanan — Nick's distant cousin; Tom's wife; Gatsby's obsession

Jordan Baker — woman golfer; dates Nick; lies a lot

Jay Gatsby — nouveau riche (new money); lives on West Egg; throws huge parties; mysterious

George Wilson — married to Myrtle Wilson; owns garage located on the road from Long Island to Manhattan

Myrtle Wilson — voluptuous, crass, vulgar; mistress of Tom Buchanan; social climber; lives with her husband but has an apartment in the city (paid for by Tom) where she and Tom go to do their thing

Catherine — Myrtle's sister

Mr. and Mrs. McKee — photographer and his wife, who live in an apartment below the one that Tom keeps for Myrtle

“Owl Eyes” — short, heavy middle-aged man seen at Gatsby get-togethers

Meyer Wolfsheim — Jewish businessman (with illegal businesses) who is Gatsby's associate

Ewing Klipspringer — seems to live at Gatsby's, live off Gatsby; plays piano

Dan Cody — adventurer who first employed Gatsby and gave him his start in the sort of life he now leads

Mr. Sloan — Tom's ultra-rich pal who, with his girl friend, snubs Gatsby

Michaelis — young Greek who operates coffee shop next to Wilson's garage

Pammy Buchanan — Tom's and Daisy's daughter

Henry C. Gatz — Jay Gatsby's father

## **Places**

Long Island Sound : the bay between Connecticut and Long Island

West Egg and East Egg : Egg-shaped points of land on Long Island; probably based on Great Neck and Little Neck; both are on the eastern half of Long Island, which lies to the east of the island of Manhattan

Valley of Ashes : probably based on Flushing Meadow, this is an area one must pass through going from the Eggs to Manhattan (NY City) or back again. It's near Queens, on the western end of Long Island

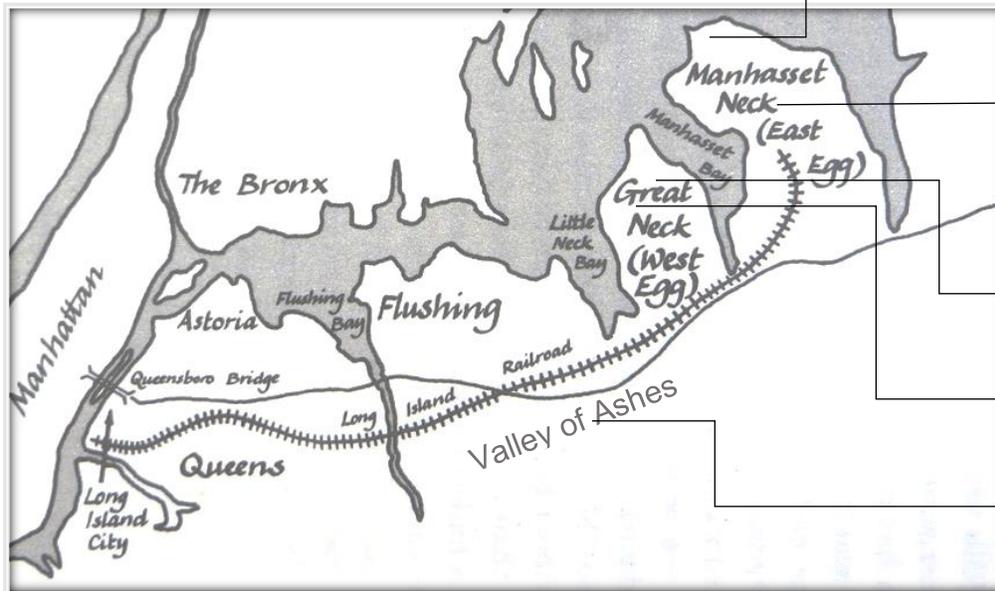
## Chapters 1– 2

1. Put each of the people or pairs of people on correct location on the map of Long Island below, using the lines provided.

Myrtle and George Wilson  
Gatsby

Nick  
Tom and Daisy Buchanan  
Jordan Baker

 = water       = land



Now **label their class** as **Old Wealth, New Wealth, or Working-Class Poor** – put the designation near the name on the line.

2. What kind of marriage do Tom and Daisy have?

How do we know?

What is Nick's reaction to the telephone calls at dinner?

3. What is Daisy's reaction when someone mentions the name "Gatsby"?

4. At the end of Ch. 1, what does Nick observe Gatsby doing?

5. Whom do we meet in Ch. 2?

6. What is the party at the apartment like?

7. What lies has Tom been telling Myrtle?

Does he intend to marry her? Explain.

8. What happens at the end of the party?

### **Chapters 3-4**

1. Whose party do we go to in Ch. 3?

How does it compare to the dinner at the Buchanans'?

How does it compare to the party at the apartment?

2. What are the various things that people think about Gatsby and his background?

3. Describe Gatsby (mannerisms, age, appearance, expression, etc.).

4. How does Gatsby act with his guests?

5. What eventually happens as the party in Ch. 3 winds down?

How is this similar to the end of the party at the apartment?

6. What sorts of people attend Gatsby's parties, as described by Nick in Ch. 4?

What do you notice about their NAMES?

What do you notice about a lot of the events described, and the fates of the various people?

7. Describe Gatsby's car. Why might the car be of importance?

8. On the way to NYC, what does Gatsby tell Nick about his background, his past? What does he offer as "proof"?

9. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim?

10. What happened in 1917-18 between Gatsby and Daisy?

11. Through Jordan Baker, what favor does Gatsby now request of Nick?

12. Why did Gatsby buy his house?

Why has he been reading a Chicago paper?

What do these actions indicate about him?

## **Chapter 5**

1. How does Gatsby prepare for the reunion at Nick's?
2. Why does Gatsby's remark about "five years" make everyone uncomfortable?
3. At one point Gatsby says the reunion is a "terrible mistake." How is Nick able to get him to go back in to Daisy?
4. By the end of the reunion, how do Gatsby and Daisy seem to be getting along? Was the reunion a success?
5. What problems still remain for Daisy and Gatsby?

## **Chapter 6**

1. What is Gatsby's real name? What is his true background? Describe the steps that brought him to his present status (many are not revealed until later in the book, so leave room for additions!).
2. What does Gatsby want Daisy to say to Tom? Then what does he want himself and Daisy to do?

What EXTREMELY ROMANTIC thought does Gatsby express to Nick at this point?

At this point, what is your opinion of Gatsby?

### **Chapter 7**

1. Explain how in this chapter Tom is able to destroy the relationship between Daisy and Gatsby.
2. What happens to Myrtle? Who was responsible? What will Gatsby do?

### **Chapters 8– 9**

1. How did Gatsby feel after making love to Daisy for the first time?

How does his attitude towards sex differ from that of others in the novel?

2. Nick tells Gatsby that he is “worth the whole damn bunch put together [meaning Tom, Daisy, Jordan, etc.]” And he also tells the reader that he disapproved of Gatsby from beginning to end. Explain your *final judgment* of Gatsby as a person:

Was he just as bad as Tom because he committed adultery?

As bad as Daisy in his desire for material acquisition?

As bad as Jordan because he told blatant lies?

Or — was he more of a hero in the Hester Prynne mold, an extraordinarily strong person, doing what he personally knew was right, remaining always faithful to the cause, never betraying his ideals, never selling out even in the face of defeat, ridicule and rejection?

3. What was it about Gatsby that, in the end, made it impossible for someone like Daisy to stay with him instead of with an unfaithful husband like Tom?

4. In the end, how is Gatsby's car in a way responsible for his death?

How is Daisy responsible?

How is Tom responsible?

6. Look at the SCHEDULE and GENERAL RESOLVES from 1906 that Mr. Gatz brings. What should this remind you of from our earlier readings in American Lit.? (It was something from the Age of Enlightenment / Revolutionary era.)

What do these two lists from Gatsby's youth tell us about his character?

5. What does Nick mean when he states, "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy . . ."

6. Do you think it is a fault of the novel that Daisy is the object of Gatsby's admiration, instead of someone more worthy of his efforts? Explain.