

Study Guide

RECORD PAGE NUMBERS FOR EACH OF YOUR ANSWERS--THEY MAKE FOR QUICK REFERENCE AND WILL AID IN CLASS DISCUSSION/ESSAYS. You must *handwrite* your answers and notes.

Chapter I

1. What is the point of view of this novel? How would you describe Fitzgerald's style? Record an example.

2. Describe the narrator. What is his name and background? How does he relate to the other characters in chapter 1? So far, does he seem like a reliable narrator?

3. What does Nick say about Gatsby in the very first chapter?

4. Describe the Buchanan's house.

5. Describe Tom Buchanan. Is the narrator's attitude toward him positive or negative? Explain.

6. What kind of person is Daisy Buchanan? What does she say about her daughter's birth and what might that comment reveal about the time period?

7. What are the differences between East Egg and West Egg?

Chapter II

1. What might the “valley of ashes” symbolize? How is it different from the Eggs?

2. Who is Myrtle Wilson? What is she like? Describe her attitude toward her marriage with specific examples from the novel.

3. What does Tom do to Myrtle when she mentions Daisy’s name? Why does he do this? What is his motivation for being with Myrtle?

4. Is Nick a reliable or an unreliable narrator in this chapter? Explain.

Chapter III

1. Describe Gatsby's parties. What is odd about them?

2. What rumors have been circulating about Gatsby?

3. Describe Nick's first meeting with Gatsby. What is Nick's first impression of Gatsby?

4. What purpose does Owl Eyes in the library serve? What purpose does the car wreck serve?
What do these items show us about Gatsby's parties?

5. Describe Jordan Baker's character. How does she relate to the other characters in the novel? What is her relationship with Nick?

Chapter IV

1. Describe the people that attend Gatsby's parties. Do they have anything in common?

2. What are some details of Gatsby's past---as told by Gatsby?

3. Describe Meyer Wolfsheim. What does he do for a living? How is he physically described and why might it be inappropriate by today's standards?

4. What is Gatsby's vision of the American Dream? What does he need to attain it?

5. What important details does Jordan Baker reveal to Nick? What symbolic value does Daisy hold for Gatsby, and how is she the culmination of all his dreams?

Chapter V

1. How does Gatsby prepare for Daisy's visit? What do those preparations reveal about his character and desires?

2. Why does Daisy cry when she sees the many dress shirts sent from England? Why does Gatsby want her to see his mansion and all his clothing?

3. Describe the significance of the green light on the dock. What might it symbolize for Gatsby?

Chapter VI

1. What is Jay Gatsby's true identity and past? Why does Fitzgerald delay revealing his true identity until this point in the novel?

2. Who is Dan Cody and why is he significant?

3. Does Daisy have a good time at the party? Why or why not? How does this affect Gatsby?

4. Explain the significance of Gatsby's quote, "Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!" (Fitzgerald 116). What does it show about his character?

Chapter VII

1. Why does Gatsby fire all his servants?

2. Explain Gatsby's reaction to Pammy Buchanan. Why does he react that way?

3. Describe the mood created in the salon. Why might this be a pivotal scene in the novel?

5. What do Wilson's reactions and appearance at the gas station reveal about his character? What does he do to Myrtle and why?

6. Who starts the argument between Tom and Gatsby? If you had to choose, which character do you empathize with most?

7. Explain Daisy's response to Gatsby and Tom about whom she really loves. What insight does her response offer readers containing her character?

8. What important plot details does Nick reveal on the ride home from the Plaza Hotel?

9. Explain the significance of Nick remembering, when offered a drink, “that today’s my birthday. I was thirty. Before me stretched the portentous menacing road of a new decade.”

What does this show about Nick as a character and narrator?

10. What is the true relationship between Daisy and Tom as revealed at the end of this chapter?

Chapter VIII

1. Why does Myrtle run out into the street?

2. Does Nick despise or admire Gatsby? Explain.

3. What is ironic about Gatsby's demise?

Chapter IX

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

2. What do we learn about Gatsby from his ledger in the Western novel?

3. What does Nick say about people like Daisy and Tom? Is he accurate? Why or why not?

4. In what ways is this novel a story about America in today's society?
