

## The Great Gatsby Study Guide Questions

### Chapter One

1. What are the recent events in Nick's life, which have most vividly affected his personality?
2. How does Nick perceive himself?
3. Describe the Buchanan's house.
4. How does Nick know Daisy and Tom?
5. Describe Tom. What is your impression of him?
6. What kind of person is Daisy?
7. How does Nick feel about Daisy and Tom after his first visit with them?
8. How does Nick fit into the East Egg and West Egg societies?
9. How does Fitzgerald introduce the theme of gesture or superficiality?
10. How much do we know about Gatsby at the end of this chapter?

### Chapter Two

1. What kind of place must one pass through on the way between East/West Egg and New York City?
2. Identify Myrtle and George Wilson.
3. How does the get-together in the New York apartment highlight the theme of the American Dream?
4. What reason does Myrtle give for marrying George Wilson?
5. How is Myrtle contrasted with Daisy?
6. What does Tom do to Myrtle when she mentions Daisy's name? Why?
7. Why does Nick agree to go along with Tom to New York to meet Myrtle's friends?

### Chapter Three

1. What symbolic correspondence is Fitzgerald asking us to make between the preparations for Gatsby's party and the arrival of the guests?
2. What kinds of people come to Gatsby's parties?
3. How does Nick meet Gatsby?
4. Is Gatsby a "phony"?
5. What mystique has developed about Gatsby?
6. What purposes do the two digressions (Owl-Eyes in the library and the car wreck) serve?
7. What is happening to Nick's reaction to Jordan Baker? What is their relationship?

### Chapter Four

1. What is the common denominator to all the stories about the people who meet at Gatsby's parties?
2. Who is Klipspringer?
3. What "matter" does Gatsby have Jordan Baker discuss with Nick?
4. Who is Wolfsheim? Where does Nick meet him?
5. What does Wolfsheim tell Nick about Gatsby?
6. How does Nick know that Gatsby is lying when he starts his recitation of his life-story?
7. What is the essence of Gatsby's materialistic dream?
8. What symbolic value does Daisy hold for Gatsby, and how is it the culmination of all his dreams?

### Chapter Five

1. Describe the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy. Why is he so nervous?
2. How does the Gatsby facade start to fade when he comes over for tea?
3. How long did it take Gatsby to make the money to buy the mansion?
4. Why does Gatsby want Daisy to see the house and his clothes?
5. What is significant about the scene with Gatsby's shirts?
6. What had the green light on the dock meant to Gatsby?
7. How does Daisy begin to fail Gatsby as a dream-girl?

#### Chapter Six

1. Why does Nick tell us the story of James Gatz now instead of earlier in the book?
2. What is Gatsby's real history? Where is he from?
3. What did Dan Cody do for Gatsby?
4. How did the materialistic vision get its start in Gatsby?
5. What is Daisy's opinion of Gatsby's party? How does this affect him?
6. What does Gatsby mean by his fierce reaction to Nick's statement about not repeating the past?
7. How do we see Nick's coming to understand the totality of Gatsby's vision?
8. What does Gatsby want from Daisy?

#### Chapter Seven

1. Why is Gatsby so disconcerted when he sees the Buchanan child?
2. How deftly does Fitzgerald handle the mechanics of getting the people to New York?
3. What does Wilson do to Myrtle? Why?
4. What does Gatsby think about Daisy's relationship with Tom?
5. Why does Gatsby insist that Daisy say she never loved Tom? How does Tom react to the death of Myrtle?
6. What happens on the way home from New York?
7. Why does Gatsby take the blame about the accident?
8. What is ironic about Gatsby's watching the window for a signal, to make sure that Tom is not abusing Daisy?
9. What is the true relationship between Daisy and Tom by the end of this chapter?

#### Chapter Eight

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. What does Michaelis believe caused Myrtle to run?
5. Why did she run?
6. Why does Wilson believe Gatsby is a killer?
7. What does Wilson do?
8. Do we accept as coming from Fitzgerald himself Nick's pronouncement that Gatsby is worth the rest of the others?
9. What is ironic about Gatsby's demise?

#### Chapter Nine

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?