***The Great Gatsby* Study Questions**

**Chapter I**

1. What advice did the narrator’s father give the narrator when he was younger?

2. How does the narrator describe Gatsby? How does the narrator feel about Gatsby?

3. Tell about the narrator’s past. Why and when did he move?

4. What are the major differences between East Egg and West Egg? Where does the narrator live?

5. Describe the narrator's house.

6. Describe the Buchanans' house.

7. How does Nick know Daisy and Tom?

8. Describe Tom’s physical looks and personality.

9. Describe Daisy’s physical looks and personality.

10. Describe Miss Baker’s physical looks and personality.

11. After the butler whispers in Tom’s ear, and he goes inside, what does Miss Baker tell Nick about

Tom?

12. What does Daisy tell Nick that she said after her baby was born?

13. How does Nick feel as he drives away from the Buchanan house? Why?

14. What is Gatsby doing at the end of the chapter? Why doesn’t Nick speak to him?

**Chapter II**

1. Describe the "valley of ashes." What might it symbolize?

2. Describe the "eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg.” Where are they? What might they symbolize?

3. Describe George Wilson. Where does he work and live?

4. Describe Myrtle Wilson. Who is she?

5. Why does Tom own an apartment on 158th Street?

6. Describe Catherine. Who is she?

7. How does Myrtle’s personality change when she changes her clothes?

8. What rumor does Catherine tell Nick about Gatsby?

9. What does Catherine say is the reason Tom can’t divorce Daisy? Is this true?

10. Nick writes, “I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the

inexhaustible variety of life” (40). What does he mean?

11. What reason does Myrtle give for marrying George Wilson?

12. How did Tom and Myrtle meet?

13. What does Tom do to Myrtle when she mentions Daisy's name?

**Chapter III**

1. Describe the preparations for the parties that show Gatsby's wealth.

2. What kind of people come to Gatsby's parties?

3. Why does Nick Carraway go to the party?

4. Who does Nick encounter in the garden?

5. What rumors about Gatsby do the two girls in yellow discuss?

6. What does the man with the owl-eyed spectacles say about the books in the library? Why is he so

amazed? What might this indicate about the lives of the upper class?

7. How does Nick meet Gatsby?

8. How does Nick describe Gatsby’s smile?

9. Describe the events taking place at Gatsby’s party.

10. Where does Nick work?

11. Describe Nick's relationship with Jordan.

12. What does Nick say is his “cardinal virtue”?

**Chapter IV**

1. Who is Klipspringer?

2. Describe Gatsby’s car.

3. What does Gatsby tell Nick about himself? Give specific details.

4. Describe Mr. Wolfshiem.

5. What does Mr. Wolfshiem tell Nick about Gatsby?

6. What is unusual about Mr. Wolfshiem’s cuff buttons (cuff links)?

7. What does Gatsby say is Mr. Wolfshiem’s profession?

8. Summarize what Jordan tells Nick about Daisy, Gatsby, and Tom’s past. Why did she tell Nick

this?

9. Why was Daisy so upset on her wedding day?

10. Why did Gatsby buy his house in West Egg?

11. What does Gatsby want Nick to do for him?

**Chapter V**

1. When Nick comes home to West Egg that night what does he find that is unusual? What has

Gatsby been doing?

2. What work offer does Gatsby make to Nick? Why does Nick refuse? Do you think that this is

Nick’s real reason? Why or why not?

3. Describe the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy. Why do you think Gatsby is so nervous?

4. How long has it been since Gatsby and Daisy have seen each other? What does is indicated by

Gatsby knowing exactly how long it’s been?

5. When Nick comes back into the house, how has Gatsby changed?

6. How long did it take Gatsby to make the money to buy his mansion?

7. Why does Gatsby want Daisy to see the house and his clothes?

8. What are the three states Nick says Gatsby has gone through that day?

9. What had the green light on the dock meant to Gatsby?

10. Nick writes, “No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his

ghostly heart” (101). What does he mean? What had Gatsby turned Daisy into in his own mind?

**Chapter VI**

1. What is Gatsby's real history? Where is he from, and what is his real name?

2. Tell what Nick means when he says Gatsby’s “heart was in a constant, turbulent riot” (105) when

Gatsby was younger.

3. Summarize what Dan Cody did for Gatsby.

4. How long did Gatsby work for Cody? What was the outcome of their association?

5. Why doesn’t Gatsby drink alcohol?

6. Why is Daisy “appalled by West Egg” (113)?

7. What does Gatsby want Daisy to do?

8. Explain the significance of Gatsby’s remark to Nick, “Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you

can!” (116)

**Chapter VII**

1. Why does Gatsby replace his servants and stop throwing parties?

2. What is Gatsby's reaction to Daisy's child?

3. What alerts Tom that there is something between Daisy and Gatsby?

4. What does Gatsby say Daisy’s voice is full of? What does he mean?

5. What does Tom suggest regarding transportation into the city? What does Daisy do?

6. Why does George Wilson want Tom to sell him his old car? What does he plan to do with the

money from the resale?

7. What does Nick write is the reason for Wilson’s sickness?

8. What does Gatsby tell Tom about Daisy's marriage to Tom?

9. What is Tom’s response to Gatsby?

10. What is Daisy's response to both men?

11. How does Tom say Gatsby made some of his money?

12. Why does Daisy leave early with Gatsby in Gatsby’s car?

13. Nick realizes that it is his 30th birthday. How does he feel about this?

14. What does Wilson tell Michaelis he had done to Myrtle?

15. How does Myrtle die?

16. What does the Negro witness report?

17. How do Wilson, Tom, Nick, and Gatsby react to Myrtle's death?

18. Who was driving the car that hit Myrtle?

19. What does Nick see when he looks in the pantry window to check on Daisy? What do you think

this indicates?

**Chapter VIII**

1. Summarize what Gatsby tells Nick about his past relationship with Daisy.

2. Why did Daisy give up on Gatsby when he was abroad? How did he learn of Daisy’s relationship

with Tom?

3. What does Nick shout to Gatsby when Nick leaves after breakfast? What does he mean?

4. What were Tom’s feelings about Gatsby “from beginning to end” (162)? Why, then, do you think

he compliments him?

5. What does Michaelis take out of the drawer in George’s office at George’s request? What is the

significance of this item?

6. What does George say was the reason Myrtle ran toward the car?

7. What did Michaelis believe caused Myrtle to run?

8. What did George tell Michaelis he had told Myrtle? What is George looking at when he tells him

this?

9. Why does Wilson believe that Gatsby killed Myrtle?

10. Who finds Gatsby’s body? Where is it found?

11. Whose body is found in addition to Gatsby’s? What do you think happened to this person?

**Chapter IX**

1. What reply does Nick get when he calls Daisy after Gatsby’s death?

2. Who is Henry C. Gatz?

3. Why couldn't Nick get any of Gatsby’s friends to come to Gatsby's funeral?

4. What is written in the book Henry Gatz shows Nick? Why is this significant?

5. Who surprises Nick by showing up at the cemetery? What is his reaction when Nick tells him that

no one came to the funeral?

6. How does Nick view the East? Describe how he sees West Egg in one of his “fantastic dreams”

(185).

7. What happens between Nick and Jordan Baker?

8. Describe Nick and Tom’s final meeting. What does Nick ask Tom? What is his reply?

9. What does Nick say about what kind of people Daisy and Tom are?

10. What does Nick mean when he says, “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back

ceaselessly into the past” (189)?