

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott. Fitzgerald



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Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald(1896-1940)



Spokesman for Jazz Age

Life story

- Born in St.Paul, Minnesota
- Left Princeton to serve in WWI in 1917
- Fell in love with Zelda Sayre / engaged but broke off
- After the publication of *This Side of Paradise*, they got married.
- They lived in expensive style so he had to write a lot just to keep their extravagant lifestyle.
- Ruined by Zelda's mental disease, his alcoholism, and failures of his writings / died at only 44

Plot overview

Gatsby is a poor youth from the Midwest. He falls in love with Daisy, but is too poor to marry her. The girl then is married to a rich young man, Tom Buchanan.



- Determined to win his lost love back, Gatsby engages himself in bootlegging and other “shady” activities, thus earning enough money to buy a magnificent imitation villa. There he spreads dazzling parties every weekend in the hope of alluring Daisy to come.



- With the help of Nick, the Gatsby's neighbor and Daisy's cousin, Gatsby meets Daisy again, only to find that the woman before him is not quite the ideal love of his dreams. A sense of loss and disillusion comes over him. He still insists and wants to back into the past. Then Daisy kills a woman in an accident, but Tom tells George that Gatsby was the owner of the car. So Gatsby is shot and the Buchanan go away.



Main characters

- **Nick Carraway(narrator)**--a bond salesman, and neighbor of Gatsby, lives in West Egg
- **Jay Gatsby**--protagonist of the novel, a young, mysterious millionaire, lives in West Egg
- **Daisy Buchanan**--Nick's cousin, wife of Tom, once had a romantic relationship with Gatsby, attractive but self-absorbed, lives in East Egg
- **Tom Buchanan**--Daisy's husband, Nick's college friend, an arrogant, hypocritical bully, lives in East Egg

- **Jordan Barker**--Daisy's friend, a woman with whom Nick becomes romantically, a golfer
- **Myrtle Wilson**--Tom's lover, possesses a fierce vitality and looks for a way to improve her situation, lives in the valley of ashes
- **George Wilson**--Myrtle's husband, lifeless, owners of a auto shop at the edge of the valley of ashes, extremely grief after Myrtle is killed

Analysis of major characters

- Jay Gatsby
- He is famous for the lavish parties
- he throws every Saturday night, but
- no one knows where he comes from,
- what he does, or how he made his
- fortune. He appears in Chapter 1, speaks until Chapter 3. The reader learns he is in love with Daisy in Chapter 4, he reunions with Daisy in a rainy day in Chapter 5. Gatsby tells his childhood and personal history in Chapter 6. The proof of his criminal dealings arises in Chapter 7. He is



- Gatsby creates his his own character, even changing his name from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby to represent his reinvention of himself. As his relentless quest for Daisy demonstrates, Gatsby has an extraordinary ability to transform his hopes and dreams into ability, this talent for self-invention is what gives Gatsby his quality of “greatness”.
- Gatsby is an innocent, hopeful young man, he is a loyal and good-hearted man. His optimism and vitality- something about him seems remarkably hopeful, and this belief in brilliance of the future impresses readers. However, he is lonely and sensitive to his status. Acutely aware of his poverty, Gatsby develops a powerful obsession with amassing wealth and status.

Daisy Buchanan

- Daisy is a beautiful young woman from Louisville, she is Nick's cousin and Gatsby's love. Daisy promised to wait for Gatsby, but in 1919 she chose to marry Tom, a young man from a solid, aristocratic family who could promise her a wealthy lifestyle.
- To Gatsby, Daisy represents the paragon of perfection-- she has the aura of charm, wealth, sophistication, grace, and aristocracy that attracted him to her.
- In reality, she is beautiful and charming, but
- also fickle, shallow, bored, and sardonic.
- She proves her real nature when she
- chooses Tom over Gatsby in Chapter 7,



- then allows Gatsby to take the blame for killing Myrtle. Finally rather than attend Gatsby's funeral, Daisy and Tom move away, leaving no address.
- Daisy is in love with money, ease, and material luxury. She is capable of affection, she seems to love Gatsby, but not of sustained loyalty or care. She is indifferent even to her daughter, seldom discussing her. She represents the amoral values of the aristocratic East Egg.

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