

Chapter 1

The novel is told in retrospect. Nick is looking back on his experience in the East. He tells the reader at the start of Chapter One that he arrived in the East in the spring, but by autumn he had returned home. How does a story benefit from being told in retrospect as opposed to being told in the moment?

Remember his statement, “I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever; I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart.” Based on that, what are your predictions as to what Nick is going to experience?

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, we meet Tom’s mistress. Why would Tom want to cheat on Daisy with Myrtle? Why would Myrtle want to cheat on George with Tom? What characteristics do each have that leads to your idea?

Chapter 3

Describe the party at Gatsby’s house. What language did Fitzgerald use to appeal to any/all of the five senses? Based on all that, would you attend a party at Gatsby’s? Why or why not?

Chapter 4

Focus on one of the characters in The Great Gatsby and how your perception of them is changing as you get more information. Compare your opinion of them from Chapter 1 to your opinion of them in Chapter 4. What information is causing your opinion to change? Is this a positive change or a negative change?

Chapter 5

Due to the nature of the first person narration, we don’t know how Gatsby and Daisy’s initial conversation went. Imagine what was said between the two while Nick was out of the house.

Any ideas on what the clock symbolizes in this chapter?
What about the fact that Gatsby knocks it off the table?

Chapter 6

What's the significance of a name?

Do you go by different names for different things?

Why did Gatsby have to change his?

How is Gatsby's relationship to his name similar or different to Esperanza's (House on Mango Street) relationship to hers ?

Chapter 7

Compare Tom and Gatsby overall and specifically...

Compare and contrast how they treat Daisy in the middle of the big argument in Chapter 7.

Is one being more considerate? Are they both about the same?

Are their goals the same in the argument?

Chapter 8

“She had caught a cold, and it made her voice huskier and more charming than ever, and Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes, and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor.”

Talk to me about wealth as a theme of the text and what is being said about here. Talk to me about Daisy's voice as a motif in the novel. What other scenes in the text does this quote potentially remind you of?

Chapter 9

Do you think Gatsby “got what he deserved?” What about the other characters? Give me your reaction to the end of the novel. Write a review of *The Great Gatsby* in a few words. Star rating (out of five)?

“After that I felt a certain shame for Gatsby—one gentleman to whom I telephoned implied that he had got what he deserved. However, that was my fault, for he was one of those who used to sneer most bitterly at Gatsby on the courage of Gatsby’s liquor and I should have known better than to call him” (181).