

The Great Gatsby Questions

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator of the novel?
2. What advice does the narrator's father give him on page 1? Why is that advice important to the structure of the novel?
3. What is Nick's social class/background? How did his family make its money?
4. When Nick returns from the war, why does he decide to go East?
5. Where does he live? Describe his house.
6. How is West Egg different from East Egg?
7. Describe Gatsby's house.
8. Who are Tom and Daisy Buchanan? What is Daisy's relationship to Nick?
9. A phone call for Tom interrupts dinner. Who called? For what reason? Who tells Nick about it?
10. When asked about her daughter, Daisy said she hopes Pammy will be a "beautiful little fool" (21). Why?
11. At the end of the chapter, Nick sees Gatsby alone on the lawn. What is he doing?

Chapter 2

1. Describe the "valley of ashes."
2. What are the "eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg"?
3. Who did Tom take Nick to meet? Describe him.
4. What did Myrtle buy while she was out with Tom and Nick?
5. Where did they go?
6. What does Mr. McKee tell Nick about Gatsby?
7. What reason did Myrtle give for marrying George Wilson?
8. What did Tom do to Myrtle when she mentioned Daisy's name?

Chapter 3

1. Nick describes the people who attend Gatsby's parties and says "that once there, the guests conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks" (45). What does this mean?
2. What kinds of people come to Gatsby's parties?
3. Why did Nick go to the party?
4. How does Nick meet Gatsby? How does Nick describe him (p. 53)?
5. What are some of the stories about Gatsby?
6. With whom does Jordan live?
7. What does Nick learn about Jordan?
8. How does he describe himself on page 64?

Chapter 4

1. What is strange about Nick's drive into the city with Gatsby? What does Gatsby tell Nick about himself? Does Nick believe him?
2. What "matter" did Gatsby have Jordan Baker discuss with Nick? What did Jordan tell Nick about Gatsby's house?
3. Describe Meyer Wolfsheim.
4. Who unexpectedly shows up at lunch?
5. What does Jordan tell Nick about Daisy, Gatsby and Tom?
6. In the story, what causes Daisy to get drunk the night before her wedding?
7. What do we learn about Tom from Jordan's story of Tom's car wreck?
8. What does Gatsby want Nick to do for him?

9. Nick remembers back to the first night he ever saw Gatsby. What does Nick realize about that night and about Gatsby's real estate purchase?

Chapter 5

1. What steps has Gatsby taken to ensure his reunion with Daisy will be perfect?
2. Describe the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy. Why was he so nervous?
3. Why did Gatsby want Daisy to see the house and his clothes?
4. As the three of them look across the bay toward Daisy's house, Nick tells us, "Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to that great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one" (98). What does Fitzgerald mean by the "great distance" between Gatsby and Daisy? Why do you think that the green light is now just a light on the dock and that Gatsby's "count of enchanted objects had diminished by one"?

Chapter 6

1. What is Gatsby's real history? Where is he from, and what is his name?
2. What did Dan Cody do for Gatsby?
3. Why did he not get the \$25,000 left to him in Cody's will?
4. What is Daisy's opinion of Gatsby's party? How does this affect him?
5. What does Gatsby want from Daisy?
6. What is Nick's view of repeating the past? What is Gatsby's?

Chapter 7

1. Why does Gatsby quit throwing parties?
2. What was Gatsby's reaction to Daisy's child?
3. Does Tom realize that Daisy is having an affair with Gatsby? How do you know?
4. How does Gatsby describe Daisy's voice?
5. Describe the driving arrangements that bring the five characters into the city.
6. During the encounter with George Wilson at the garage, what do we learn that George has realized?
7. Who does Myrtle think Jordan is?
8. Where do they all go in the city?
9. As they drink in the hotel, what does Tom call Gatsby out on?
10. Why is it so important to Gatsby that Daisy say she never loved Tom?
11. What did Tom find out in his investigation of Gatsby? What is Daisy's reaction to this news?
12. Describe the hit and run scene.
13. Why does Tom make a point to tell Wilson that the yellow car does not belong to him?
14. Who was driving the car that hit Myrtle? Why was this person driving?
15. At the end of the chapter, we see Tom and Daisy talking together at the kitchen table. What does this scene suggest for Gatsby, Daisy, and Tom?

Chapter 8

1. What does Gatsby tell Nick about his past? Is it true?
2. Nick tells Gatsby that Tom and Daisy are "a rotten crowd" and that he is "worth the whole damn bunch put together" (162). What does that mean?
3. Nick tells us more about what happened the night Myrtle died. What object told George she was having an affair?
4. Why did Myrtle run toward the yellow car?
5. Why does Wilson believe Gatsby killed Myrtle?
6. What does Wilson do?

Chapter 9 (Nick remembers these events two years later)

1. Who came to Gatsby's funeral?
2. Why couldn't Nick get anyone to come to Gatsby's funeral?
3. Who is Henry C. Gatz?
4. What shocking piece of information does Nick receive in his chance meeting with Tom? What is Nick's final feeling about Tom and Daisy?
5. What does the following line from the story mean: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" (189)?