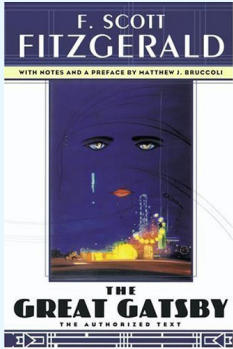


# The Great Gatsby



**AUTHOR** F. Scott Fitzgerald

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**LA BOOKSHELF** KM528

**VOICETEXT** Yes

**LEXILE LEVEL** 1070L

**GRADE EQUIVALENT** 8.1

## OVERVIEW

*The Great Gatsby*, a 1925 classic written by the great American Literary Author F. Scott Fitzgerald, is the story of a man named Nick Carraway who has just moved from the Midwest to the fictional village of West Egg on Long Island. A Yale graduate and World War I veteran, Nick has moved to become a Bond Salesman in New York. Set in the 1920's, the story follows Nick's strange kinship with his wealthy neighbor, Jay Gatsby, and Gatsby's obsessive love for Daisy. Told from Nick's point of view, the story follows his descent into the world of riches, elaborate parties, and overabundance; a sometimes harsh and cynical portrayal of the Jazz Age elite.

## SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Analysis of a Symbol
- Elements of Setting
- KWL Chart
- Plot Diagram
- Five Paragraph Essay Template
- Vocabulary Graphic Organizer

## AUTHOR INFORMATION

F. Scott Fitzgerald was one of the most iconic writers of the twentieth century; largely seen as defining the generation of the Jazz Age through his literary pieces. Born in St. Paul Minnesota in 1896, Fitzgerald grew up in New York and attended Princeton University up until 1917 when he dropped out and joined the army. Fitzgerald's great works include *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Tender Is the Night*. He is also the author of several short-stories that focus on themes of youth, decadence, wealth, overabundance, and despair.

## BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

- Information on the "Roaring Twenties" and the "Jazz Age"
  - › *Roaring Twenties* – PBS [www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time\\_roaring.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time_roaring.htm)
- Life in America after World War I
  - › How the Great War affected the public, both soldiers coming home and those on the home front
  - › Prosperity in America after WW1
- Prohibition
  - › 18th Amendment and the Temperance Movement

## WRITING PROMPTS

- What are some of the key symbols throughout *The Great Gatsby*?
- How does the time-period of *The Great Gatsby* effect the characters and ultimately the story?
- Choose a theme for *The Great Gatsby* and defend why you have chosen that theme in a five paragraph essay.
- Compare and contrast the two main characters, Gatsby and Nick Caraway. How are they alike? How are they different?

## LITERARY DEVICES

### Symbolism

- The Valley of Ashes
- The green light
- Colors throughout the novel (green, gold, white, red)
- Billboard with the eyes of Dr. TJ Eckelberg
- Automobiles

### Setting

- East Egg and West Egg
- Nick's house vs. Gatsby's house
- The 1920s
- Valley of Ashes
- The weather

### Theme

- Pursuit of the "American Dream"
- Wealth and class
- Lies and deceit
- Fantasy vs. reality
- Morality

## The Great Gatsby

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### **SUPPORTING MEDIA** (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

- Music of the Jazz Age by Digital History  
[www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=13&smtID=6](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=13&smtID=6)
- Spark Notes – Great Gatsby Video  
[www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/video/gatsby](http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/video/gatsby)

### **COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS**

- Analyze the effects of setting on important literature
- Articulate major symbols and themes throughout a literary work, citing evidence to back up claims
- Analyze complex fictional characters and plot, relating them to everyday situations

### **WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS**

- Allow students to use audiobook version at home or in class
- Verbally read chapters of the book aloud while students follow along
- Allow students to use a scribe or Assistive Technology for written assessments
- Provide picture cues for big ideas, vocabulary, lesson objectives, directions
- Change modality of assessment from written work to an approach most successful for student (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic)
- Watch the movie or compare/contrast movie to the book

### **RESOURCES**

Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2013). Music of the Jazz Age. Digital History. Retrieved (6/05/14) from  
[www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=13&smtID=6](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=13&smtID=6)

PBS Editors “Roaring Twenties- History in the Key of Jazz.”  
[www.pbs.org/jazz/index.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/index.htm) PBS  
[www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time\\_roaring.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time_roaring.htm), 5 June 2015.

SparkNotes Editors. “SparkNote on The Great Gatsby.”  
SparkNotes.com. SparkNotes LLC. 2002. Web. 9 Jun. 2015.