

Yellow—The Great Gatsby

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And these summaries from Sparknotes <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/gatsby/>
to aid your reading.

Choose five questions to answer from chapters 1,3, 8, 9. Turn the answers to the questions in each day they are due.

Great Gatsby Study Guide **Name:** _____
Date: _____

Chapter 1

1. What is Nick afraid of missing if he forgets that “a sense of the fundamental decencies is parceled out unequally at birth?” Why does he say that reserving judgments “is a matter of infinite hope?”
2. Why is Tom so taken with racist theories of white superiority? Why does he want to believe that these theories are scientific and accurate
3. Are Daisy’s voice and manner natural to her, or is she acting? Why are so many men attracted to her?
4. Why does Daisy tell Nick “the best thing a girl can be in this world” is a “beautiful little fool?” Why does Nick feel that Daisy’s words are insincere?

5. Why does Jordan seem “discontented” to Nick? Why does she want to eavesdrop on Tom’s phone conversation?

6. What do Tom and Daisy want from Nick?

7. Why is Nick “confused and a little disgusted” as he drives away from Tom and Daisy’s house?

8. What is it about Gatsby’s first appearance that keeps Nick from approaching him?

Chapter 2

1. Why does Nick describe the valley of ashes as “fantastic” and “grotesque?” Why does he say that Doctor T.J. Eckleburg’s eyes “brood on over the solemn dumping ground?”

2. Why does Fitzgerald have Myrtle live above a garage on “the edge of the wasteland?”

3. Why is Myrtle attracted to Tom? Why does she put on airs when they get to the New York apartment?
4. Does Wilson suspect that Myrtle and Tom are having an affair?
5. Why does Tom break Myrtle's nose when she keeps saying Daisy's name?
6. How do the rumors about Gatsby contribute to his image and reputation?

Chapter 3

1. Why doesn't Nick realize who Gatsby is when the two men meet at Gatsby's party?
2. Why does Gatsby spend most of his party alone, instead of mingling with the guests? Why doesn't he seem to mind that so many of the people there were not invited?
3. Why does the party end with the car crash involving the owl-eyed man?

Chapter 4

1. Why does Nick list all the people who attended Gatsby's parties that summer?
2. How is "knowing nothing whatever about him" a "subtle tribute" paid to Gatsby by his guests?
3. Why does Gatsby tell Nick the story of his life after asking for Nick's opinion of him?
4. When he crosses the bridge to the city with Gatsby, why does Nick say that now "even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder?"
5. Why does Wolfsheim draw Nick's attention to his cuff buttons and point out that they are actually human molars?
6. Why does Gatsby tell Nick "coolly," but after a hesitation, that Wolfsheim fixed the 1919 World Series?
7. Why does Gatsby have Jordan ask Nick if he'll invite Daisy to his house, instead of asking Nick himself?

8. Does Jordan believe that Daisy was in love with Gatsby when she married Tom? What is Jordan's attitude toward Daisy's past?

Chapter 5

1. Why does Gatsby call Nick "old sport?"
2. Why does Gatsby insist he doesn't want to put Nick to any trouble by having him invite Daisy over? Why does Gatsby want his first meeting with Daisy to be at Nick's house?
3. Why does Gatsby try, and fail, to act nonchalant when he sees Daisy again? Why does he run around the house in order to knock on the front door and appear to arrive after Daisy?
4. What is Daisy feeling during the meeting with Gatsby at Nick's house?
5. Why does Gatsby want Nick to come along while he shows his off his house to Daisy?

6. Why does Daisy bury her face in Gatsby's beautiful shirts and cry?

7. Why has the "colossal significance" of the green light at the end of Daisy's dock "vanished forever" once Gatsby has met Daisy again?

Chapter 6

1. Why does Nick feel it is important to give a biography of James Gatz/Jay Gatsby at this point to "clear this set of misconceptions away," even though he learned the facts much later?

2. Why does James Gatz change his name to Jay Gatsby at age seventeen? Why does Nick say, "I suppose he'd had the name ready for a long time, even then?"

3. Why does Gatsby so desperately want to see more of Tom? Why does he try to join the horse-riding party for supper, even after Mr. Sloane and the others have made it clear they don't want him?

4. Why is the atmosphere at Gatsby's completely changed for Nick the first time Tom and Daisy attend a party there? Why does Gatsby refer to Tom all evening as "the polo player?"

5. What does Gatsby mean when he says, "I feel far away from her. It's hard to make her understand?"

6. Why is Gatsby so sure that it is possible to repeat the past? Why is Nick reminded of as Gatsby talks about the past? What does he want to say to Gatsby, and why can't he manage to say it?

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Chapter 7

1. Why does Gatsby say that Daisy's voice is "full of money?" Why does Nick think "that was it?"
2. Why does Tom insist on driving Gatsby's car, despite Gatsby's distaste for the idea? Why does Tom call Gatsby's car a "circus wagon?"
3. Why is Gatsby "content" once Tom has brought the affair with Daisy "out in the open at last?"
4. Why is Gatsby so upset when Daisy tells him that she did love Tom "once – but I loved you too?"
5. Why does Daisy draw "further and further into herself" as Gatsby tries to defend herself against Tom's accusations? Why are Daisy's "intentions" and "courage" now "definitely gone?"
6. After Tom and Gatsby's argument, why does Nick suddenly realize that it's his thirtieth birthday?

7. Why does Gatsby admit to Nick that Daisy was driving the car when Myrtle was killed?

8. Why doesn't Nick tell Gatsby that he saw Daisy and Tom "conspiring together?"

Chapter 8

1. Why does Gatsby still wait for Daisy even though Nick senses that "Jay Gatsby" had broken up like glass against Tom's hard malice and the long secret extravaganza was played out?"

2. Why doesn't Gatsby feel guilty for wooing Daisy under false pretenses? Why does he suddenly find that he has "committed himself to the following of a grail?"

3. What does Gatsby mean when he says of Daisy's feelings for Tom, "In any case, ...it was just personal?"

4. Why doesn't Nick want to leave Gatsby the morning after the accident?
5. Why do Nick and Jordan have such a tense conversation? Why is Nick "annoyed" that Jordan has left the Buchanans' house?
6. How are the circumstances and setting of Gatsby's death consistent with his life and personality?

Chapter 9

1. Why is it so important to Nick that he "get somebody" for Gatsby?
2. Why are Gatsby's father, Nick, and the owl-eyed man the only named characters who come to the funeral?
3. What is Nick thinking as he repeats, "It just shows you," when Gatsby's father shows him Gatsby's early schedule for self-improvement?
4. Why does the owl-eyed man say, "The poor son-of-a-bitch," after the funeral? Why is he given the last word at the funeral?

