

The Great Gatsby—Study Guide—Chapters 1-3

Chapter 1

1. What does the narrator (Nick Carraway) say his father told him about criticizing someone?
2. What does Nick tell us about his past?
3. According to Nick, what is the difference between West Egg and East Egg? Where does Nick live? Where does Gatsby live? Where do Tom and Daisy Buchanan live?
4. What is Nick's connection to the Buchanans?
5. Nick goes to Tom and Daisy's for tea. What can we tell about Tom's character? (Name at least 3 things—probably all negative!)
6. What juicy bit of information does Jordan Baker tell Nick about Tom?
7. When Daisy and Nick are alone, what does she reveal about herself?
8. After Daisy's daughter was born, what did she hope her daughter would be?
9. How does Nick feel after leaving Tom and Daisy's?
10. What is Gatsby doing when Nick sees him that evening?

Chapter 2

1. How is the area between West Egg and New York described?
2. Who is Dr. T.J. Eckleburg? (Where do we see him? What does he look like?) How is this **symbolic**?
3. Who is Myrtle? What does her husband do for a living?
4. What does Tom buy for Myrtle?
5. Describe in a few sentences the scene at the New York apartment. (You might include the "state" of almost everyone there.)
6. What does Myrtle say about the reason she married George?

7. What does Tom do when Myrtle continues to say Daisy's name?

Chapter 3

1. What kinds of activities, people, deliveries, etc. does Nick observe at Gatsby's house?

2. Read the paragraph that begins with "I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby's house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited." What understanding do you get from this paragraph about the type of people that attended Gatsby's parties?

3. What does Jordan Baker do for a living?

4. What are some of the rumors about Gatsby's past?

5. What impresses the drunk "owl-eyes" about Gatsby's library?

6. How does Gatsby typically refer to Nick?

7. What does Nick reveal about Gatsby's personality in the paragraph that begins, "He smiled understandingly"?

8. Explain the cause of commotion as people are leaving Gatsby's party.

9. What flaw does Nick reveal about Jordan's character?

10. What does Nick reveal about himself at the very end of Chapter 3?