***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 3 Questions**

1. What arrives at Gatsby’s house every Friday and leaves on Monday? What does

this tell you about the parties Gatsby’s hosts?

2. Describe the events and the atmosphere of this particular party.

3. Describe two ways in which Nick differs from the other guests at Gatsby’s party.

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4. What does Nick think of Gatsby when he first meets him?

5. Describe the ambiguity (vagueness/contradictions) in Gatsby’s character that

strikes Nick.

6. What discovery does the owl-eyed man make in Gatsby’s library? What

symbolic meaning could this reference have about society in the 1920s?

7. How does Nick characterize the guests at Gatsby’s party? What do his

characterizations tell us about how Nick feels about most of these people?

What sense of life in the Jazz Age do we get from the description of this party?

8. On what does the owl-eyed man blame the accident after Gatsby’s party? What

is ironic about this claim?

9. How does Nick describe Jordan at the end of Chapter 3? What do we learn

about her that would support this statement?

10. Why does Jordan say, “I hate careless people. That’s why I like you”?

11. Based on the two incidents involving automobiles in this chapter, what role do

automobiles seem to play in the novel so far?

12. What unique quality do we learn that Nick possesses?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 4 Questions**

1. What does Gatsby tell Nick about himself? Aside from the improbability of his story,

what other evidence is there that Gatsby is lying about something when he tells

Nick about his background?

2. What is the significance of Nick’s statements: “Anything can happen now that

we’ve slid over this bridge?” and “Even Gatsby could happen, without any

particular wonder.”

3. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim? What seems to be his connection with Gatsby? What

does this tell us about Gatsby?

4. Jordan Baker tells Nick about Daisy, Gatsby, and Tom. Summarize the story. Also,

after Jordan tells Nick the story of Gatsby and Daisy, Nick says that Gatsby “came

alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor.” How

does this metaphor of birth help explain what Gatsby’s behavior had meant to Nick

up to then?

5. How does Daisy behave after Gatsby goes overseas? What does her behavior

show about her feelings for Gatsby? According to Jordan, what did Daisy do on her

wedding day? Why?

6. Why do you think Gatsby has so many parties? Why did he buy the house?

7. Why does Gatsby want to have tea with Daisy at Nick’s house? Why doesn’t

Gatsby ask Nick for this favor himself?

8. What does Tom do when he and Daisy return from their honeymoon? Explain.

9. With Jordan in his arms, Nick thinks of a phrase: “There are only the pursued, the

pursuing, the busy, and the tired.” How do you think this phrase reflects on the

events of the novel so far? Do you think that Gatsby would agree with the phrase?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 5 Questions**

*1.* What does Gatsby offer Nick in return for Nick’s cooperation in inviting Daisy to his

house? What is Nick’s response?

*2.* What is the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy like initially?

*3.* How are Daisy and Gatsby different when Nick returns to the house after half an

hour? How do these attitudes correlate with the weather?

*4.* What is ironic about the cottage owner’s refusal to put thatched roofs on their

homes? Remember, the book says “Americans, while occasionally willing to be

serfs, have always been obstinate about being peasantry.”

*5.* What does Gatsby reply when Nick asks him how he makes his money? Why does

Nick find that significant?

*6.* What is Gatsby’s dialogue like in this chapter? What does it tell us about Gatsby?

*7.* Why do you think Daisy sobs when Gatsby shows her his shirts?

*8.* What are Gatsby’s feelings by the end of the chapter?

*9.* In this chapter, Gatsby’s dream seems to be fulfilled. What indications are there, though, that reality cannot satisfy his dream?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 6 Questions**

1. What’s Gatsby’s REAL story behind his past?
2. When and why does James Gatz change his name?
3. How is the comparison of Gatsby with Christ (“he was a son of God…and he must be about his Father’s business”) ironic? If the comparison with Christ were to continue throughout the book, what would happen to Gatsby?
4. Tom, Mr. Sloane, and a young lady visit Gatsby and the lady invites Gatsby to come to dinner with them. What does Gatsby’s response tell us about his social sensitivity? What does Tom’s response tell us about his? What connection, if any, do you think this scene might have with Gatsby’s love of Daisy?
5. What is Daisy’s real reaction to Gatsby’s party?
6. What does Gatsby tell Nick he wants Daisy to do?
7. What is Gatsby’s view of the past? When Nick says that Gatsby “wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy,” what do you think he means?
8. At the end of the chapter, Nick describes Gatsby kissing Daisy in Louisville five

years before. What is Gatsby giving up when he kisses her? Why?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 7 Questions**

1. Why does Gatsby stop giving parties? Why did Gatsby fire all of his servants? Who

replaced them? What was unique about these replacements?

2. What does Gatsby see at Daisy’s house that disturbs him? Why does this bother

him so much?

3. What does Daisy do while Tom is in the other room? What does she tell Jordan to

do? Why does Jordan call Daisy a ‘low, vulgar girl’?

4. When does Tom first realize that Daisy loves Gatsby?

5. Describe what’s going on with George Wilson. What does he want to do? Why does

he suddenly need money from / made off of Tom?

6. Why is Myrtle Wilson upset when she sees Tom and Jordan?

1. Why does Fitzgerald emphasize the heat? Of what could the weather be symbolic?
2. What is ironic about Tom saying that he has second sight?

9. What is the significance of “Blocks” Biloxi? Why do you think Fitzgerald inserted

this little tid-bit?

10. Why is Nick so pleased with Gatsby’s honesty about Oxford? Show how this

pleasure turns to disgust then back to pleasure as the chapter progresses.

11. Why does Tom refer to the liaison between Daisy and Gatsby in terms of

intermarriage?

12. Tom says that he will be better to Daisy from now on, that he will take better

care of her. Do you think he will? Support your answer with information from the

book.

13. Why does Nick change his feelings toward Jordan?

14. How does Gatsby characterize Daisy’s voice? What do you think he means

by this?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 8 Questions**

1. What does Gatsby tell Nick the night of the accident? Why?
2. Did Gatsby want to go to Oxford?
3. What would you say is the principal reason for Daisy’s appeal to Gatsby?

4. How does Nick leave Gatsby?

5. How does Nick compliment Gatsby and what is Gatsby’s reaction? Why is it

important that Nick thank Gatsby?

6. How does George Wilson spend the night after the accident?

7. What evidence had Wilson found that his wife was having an affair?

8.What do the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg **symbolize** to George Wilson? What is

significant about this symbol?

9.How do you think Wilson got Gatsby’s name? Does any evidence in this chapter

point to a particular person?

10.How does Nick characterize Gatsby’s state of mind before “the incident” which

occurs at the end of the chapter? What is this “incident” that happens?

***The Great Gatsby* – Chapter 9 Questions**

1. Why do Tom and Daisy leave? What does Tom confess to Nick when they meet

that fall? Does he regret what he has done?

2. What does the telephone call from Chicago tell us about Gatsby’s business?

1. What does Klipspringer want from Nick? How does Nick react to this?

4. What is the significance of Mr. Gatz’ arrival? What is the irony of Mr. Gatz’

admiration of Gatsby’s house?

5. Why does Mr. Gatz show Nick Gatsby’s schedule from his youth? What does this

show you about the kind of person Gatsby was meant to be? What is the

pathos of Gatsby’s youthful resolutions?

6. What is the significance of the owl-eyed man’s attendance at the funeral? With

what can we associate him?

7. What is the significance of Jordan’s comment about the “bad driver”? How does

Nick characterize Tom and Daisy at the end of the book? What have they

“smashed” throughout the book?

8. Why does the era of Prohibition lend an added significance to the hypocrisy

emphasized in *The Great Gatsby?*

9. What is a true ‘gentleman’? Who was the true gentleman – Tom or Gatsby?

Explain.

1. What does Nick mean when he says “the holocaust was complete”?

11. What does the green light **symbolize** at the end of the novel?