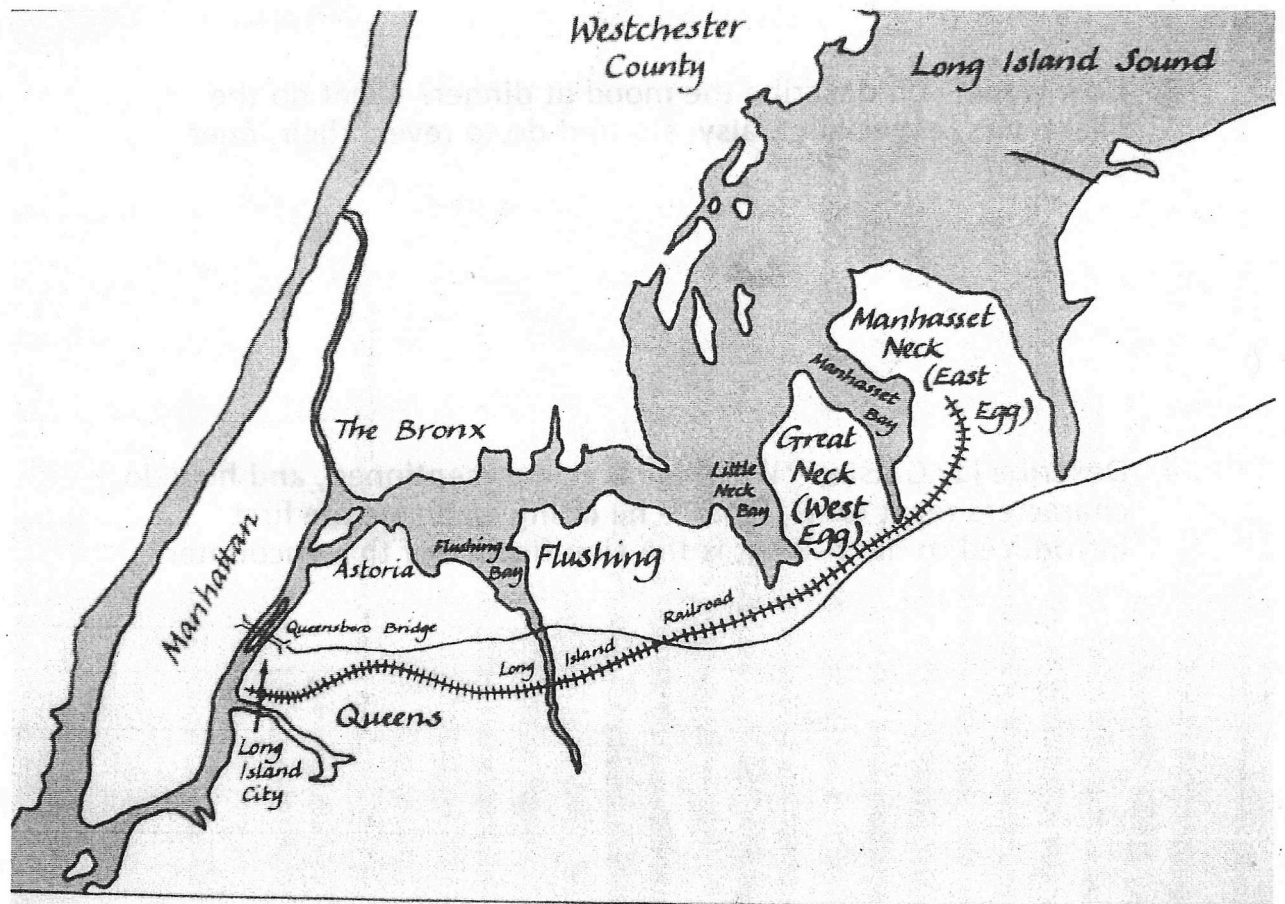


# THE GREAT GATSBY

## Discussion Questions



Long Island: East Egg to Manhattan.

## CHAPTER ONE

1. How does Nick describe himself at the beginning of the novel?  
How does he describe Tom Buchanan?

2. How does Nick describe Daisy Buchanan? Jordan Baker? (Character descriptions are very important in this novel – be sure you’re paying attention – and not just at the beginning!)
  
3. How would you describe the mood at dinner? What do the characters, especially Daisy, say and do to reveal their inner conflicts?
  
4. Describe Jay Gatsby. When is his name mentioned, and how do characters react to it? What is he doing when we are first introduced to him? What is the significance of this encounter?

## CHAPTER 2

1. Describe the “Valley of the Ashes”. Who lives here? What aspects of the valley do you think may be symbolic as well as literal?
  
2. Who is Myrtle Wilson? Note how her behavior changes over the course of the chapter.

3. Compare the setting of the party in chapter one with that in chapter two.
4. Note Fitzgerald's use of the ellipsis ( . . . ) to describe events at the end of the chapter. What is happening here?

### CHAPTER 3

1. How does Nick characterize the guests at Gatsby's party? What sense of life in the Jazz Age do we get from the dazzling descriptions of this party?
2. What things does Nick hear about Gatsby at the party? What does Nick think of Gatsby when he first meets him? Describe the ambiguity in Gatsby's character that strikes Nick.
3. Describe two incidents involving automobiles in this chapter. What role do automobiles seem to play in the novel so far?

4. After spending a bit of time with her, what opinion does Nick develop of Jordan Baker?

## CHAPTER 4

1. What does Gatsby tell Nick about his background? Does Nick believe him? Do you? Why or why not?
2. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim? What are his accomplishments? What does Gatsby's friendship with Wolfsheim suggest about his own background?
3. Describe Daisy's wedding and honeymoon.
4. What favours does Gatsby ask of Jordan and Nick? Why?

## CHAPTER 5

1. What is the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy like initially? How are they different when Nick returns to the house?

2. What is the weather like in this chapter? What does it mimic?

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

4. In this chapter, Gatsby's dream seems to be fulfilled. What indications are there, however, that reality cannot satisfy his dream?

## CHAPTER 6

1. Who is James Gatz? What is his story?

2. 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?

3. What is Daisy's authentic reaction to the party, according to Nick?

4. What does Gatsby want from Daisy? How does this connect to his view of the past? (SUPER IMPORTANT)

## CHAPTER 7

1. When does Tom first realize that Daisy loves Gatsby?
2. What happens between Daisy and Gatsby at the Plaza Hotel? Could he have done anything to prevent this? Why doesn't he?
3. Why does Tom insist that Daisy go home with Gatsby? What does this suggest about his character? About their marriage?
4. The chapter ends with Gatsby standing alone, looking up at Daisy's house. Where else in the novel does he do this? How is this different?

## CHAPTER 8

1. From the opening pages of this chapter, what would you say is the principal reason for Daisy's appeal to Gatsby?
2. How is Nick's attitude toward Gatsby ambivalent even at the moment when he says goodbye to him?
3. How does George Wilson spend the night after the accident? What evidence did he have that his wife was having an affair?
4. What do the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg symbolize to George Wilson? What is significant about this symbol?

## CHAPTER 9

1. Nick answers two telephone calls, one from Slagle and one from Klipspringer. Describe the topic and outcome of each.
2. Compare Nick's encounters with Meyer Wolfsheim and with Mr. Gatz. What do these characters have in common? What is different about them? How does each relate to Gatsby?
3. How does Nick characterize Tom and Daisy at the end of the book? What has each of them "smashed" during the course of the novel?
4. At the end of the book, Nick imagines what the continent must have been like when it was first seen by Dutch sailors. How is this connected symbolically to Gatsby's green light?