

Year 12: The Great Gatsby – remote curriculum. This unit will help you to keep up with your study of The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Use the blue hyperlinks below to take you to the lessons. Press ctrl+click to go to the right lesson for you.

The weekly breakdown is for guidance, but you should pick up the lessons for the chapter you are up to in class. eg: if you were reading chapter 4 in class, don't go back to the chapter 3 questions, or skip to the chapter 6 questions: start at chapter 4.

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Lesson 1: Context.

When we study a novel we usually start with context, and our study of *The Great Gatsby* will be no different. Today's task is to watch a documentary called "The Great American Dreamer" on youtube about the wonderful F. Scott. Fitzgerald. Access it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2wp8lpxn9s>

Please take notes (I would do a mind-map but you can choose your own format) under the headings

- early life and family background
- education
- love life
- historical and social background (ie: what was life was like in America when Fitzgerald was growing up and writing?)

As it is the context of the novel that is important, you need only *take notes up to 24 mins.* After all, what happened to Fitzgerald after he wrote the novel has no bearing on its content. However, for a full understanding of this complex man and his fascinating life, please watch the full 45 minute documentary.

Lesson 2: watch "The Roaring 20s" documentary

here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN7ftyZigYs> and use this handout <https://studylib.net/doc/8981410/hand-out---msad-%2337> and take detailed notes on

- the economy
- prohibition, speakeasies and bootleggers
- gangster culture (look up Al Capone and the Valentine's Day massacre if you want to learn more)
- socialising (partying)
- women / flappers
- entertainment
- the impact of WWI

I hope you find this period of time as fascinating as I do!

Lesson 3: Fitzgerald's style.

Read this poem:

1. Questions here.
2. "Fitzgerald's poetry perfectly captures the zeitgeist of the 1920s: a time of glitter, glamour and partying." How far do you agree with this statement, in the light of your reading of this poem? Complete an analytical paragraph in response to this statement. In your answer, take care to address
AO2 - language analysis using literature terminology.
AO3 - connections with specific contextual info.
AO4 - typicality and connections with the literature of love.

Lesson 4: Fitzgerald's style continued.

SURPRISE!

Okay so the poem that we studied last lesson wasn't a poem... It was chapter 3 of *The Great Gatsby* set out on the page so that it LOOKS like a poem. And it did read like a poem, didn't it? And here's why – *copy these next 2 sentences into your notebook*: Fitzgerald's prose style is very poetic. So poetic, in fact, that it is often referred to as "lyrical prose." This makes it beautifully figurative, and a gift to Lit students like us who want to analyse it, because it is so densely packed with imagery, metaphors, sibilance, motif, allusion and so on.

Critics have recognised elements of Romantic style in his work. Add these critical statements to your notes:

- *Fitzgerald's prose is poetic; he copied a lot of that from Keats and the other poets...the cadences of Keats are important [to his style]. Clive James*
- *"...he credits his style to an early immersion in John Keats. In a letter to his daughter when she was aspiring to write, he wrote: "Poetry is something that lives like fire inside you—like music to the musician... For a while after you quit Keats all other poetry seems to be only whistling or humming."*

Keep this in mind and look at this section of chapter 1. Here, the narrator, Nick, describes Gatsby, the protagonist of the novel. Interestingly, the first time that the reader "meets" Gatsby is through Nick's narrative. So it's important to really focus on this first description. I have given you some alternatives where Fitzgerald's actual diction (*word*) choices add significant meaning. Here's what I want you to do: choose the word that you think Fitzgerald used, and explain what meaning is created by that word. You could number them and write down your choice, and justification for that choice. For example, what image is created, or what are the connotations of the word or phrase you've chosen?

Finally, answer the question: based on your choices, what impression is created of Gatsby in Nick's initial description of him in chapter 1?

Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction — Gatsby, who represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn. If personality is an unbroken series of successful gestures, then there was something **gorgeous / unusual** about him, some heightened sensitivity to the **promises / questions** of life, as if he were related to one of those intricate machines that register earthquakes **ten thousand / a thousand** miles away. This responsiveness had nothing to do with that flabby impressionability which is dignified under the name of the "creative temperament." —
it was **a rare / an extraordinary** gift for hope, **a romantic / an ambitious** readiness such as I have **never / rarely** found in any other

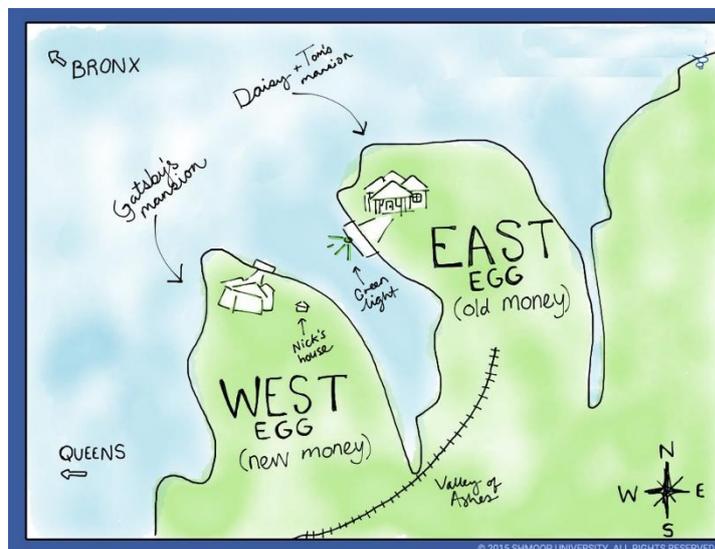
person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again. No — Gatsby turned out **all right / a disappointment** at the end; it is what **preyed on / surrounded** Gatsby, what foul **dust / dirt** floated in the wake of his **dreams / car** that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men.

When we read chapter 1 (next lesson), you'll be able to check whether or not you were right.

Lesson 5: Let's read.

Today, please start to read chapter 1 and read up to the line *And just after the war I spent two days with them in Chicago*. Answer the questions that follow.

1. In your own words, what advice does Nick's father give him?
2. Gatsby's character is established in this chapter, through Nick's narrative. He establishes him as a Romantic character – in the Romantic, not romantic sense (ie: he shares the same sensibility – look the word up! – as the Romantic poets). What impression do you get of him? (We did this in detail last lesson; summarise your opinion here).
3. True or false?
 - a. Nick's family are rich
 - b. Nick fought in the Great War
 - c. The Great War is WWI
 - d. New Haven is now known as Yale
 - e. Nick's family are in agriculture
 - f. The closest city to Nick's new home is New York
4. What mood is created by the line "life was beginning over again with the summer"?
5. Skim and scan the descriptions of West and East Egg and write down a list of descriptions for each.



6. Now look at the description of Gatsby's house. What meaning do the words in bold create:
7. The one on my right was **a colossal affair** by any standard — it was a **factual imitation of** some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, **spanking new** under a **thin beard of raw ivy**, and a marble swimming pool, and **more than** forty acres of lawn and garden. It was Gatsby's mansion.

Lesson 6: ch 1. Read to the end of the chapter.

1. What impression is created of Tom and Daisy, from the descriptions below? Copy them into your book and write what you infer from each quote:

Tom:

- one of the most powerful ends that ever played football at New Haven
- one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anti-climax
- His family were enormously wealthy... he'd brought down a string of polo ponies from Lake Forest. It was hard to realize that a man in my own generation was wealthy enough to do that.
- Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game.
- [Tom had] a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward... you could see a great pack of muscle shifting when his shoulder moved under his thin coat. It was a body capable of enormous leverage—a cruel body.
- there were men at New Haven who had hated his guts.
- 'these books are all scientific,' insisted Tom, glancing at her impatiently. 'This fellow has worked out the whole thing. It's up to us who are the dominant race to watch out or these other races will have control of things.'
- Jordan: 'Tom's got some woman in New York.'

Daisy:

- She laughed again, as if she said something very witty, and held my hand for a moment, looking up into my face, promising that there was no one in the world she so much wanted to see. That was a way she had.
- there was an excitement in her voice that men who had cared for her found difficult to forget
- "I always watch for the longest day in the year and then miss it".
- "I've had a very bad time, Nick, and I'm pretty cynical about everything."
- sure enough, in a moment she looked at me with an absolute smirk on her lovely face as if she had asserted her membership in a rather distinguished secret society to which she and Tom belonged.

2. Are Tom and Daisy happily married? How do you know?
3. Nick thinks Daisy should leave Tom, because he is having an affair, He says: It seemed to me that the thing for Daisy to do was to rush out of the house, child in

arms—but apparently there were no such intentions in her head. Why might she have no intention of leaving him?

4. What is Gatsby seen doing at the end of the chapter?

Lesson 7: read ch2.

Lesson 8: ch2 response questions:

1. Why might Fitzgerald describe the Valley of Ashes, where Myrtle & George Wilson live, in such detail? What is it like? (Look at the imagery - it's foul: "grotesque gardens / fantastic farms, etc.")
2. What can we infer from the fact that Tom is open about his extra-marital affair?
3. Analyse these descriptions of Myrtle:
 - a) She was "faintly stout...but she carried her flesh sensuously..."
 - b) "her face... contained no facet or gleam of beauty."
 - c) "At the news-stand she bought a copy of town tattle and a moving-picture magazine, and in the station drug-store some cold cream and a small flask of perfume. Up-stairs, in the solemn echoing drive she let four taxicabs drive away before she selected a new one, lavender-coloured with gray upholstery. But immediately she turned sharply from the window and, leaning forward, tapped on the front glass.
 - d) "I want to get one of those dogs," she said earnestly. "I want to get one for the apartment. They're nice to have—a dog."
 - e) "Mrs Wilson changed her costume..."
4. Why might Fitzgerald repeat the word "small" when describing Tom & Myrtle's apartment? How does it compare to Tom and Daisy's house?
5. Would you like to be a guest at their party? Why / why not?
6. What reason has Tom given Myrtle for his not leaving Daisy?
7. Why did Myrtle marry Wilson?
8. Why does Tom punch Myrtle? How does this affect your reading of his character?
9. Do you think Tom will leave Daisy for Myrtle? Why / why not?
10. How is Tom's attitude similar to the attitude that Lovelace expresses in The Scrutiny?

Lesson 9: ch 3.

You should recognise the start of chapter 3: it's the section of text that I transformed into a poem at the start of this unit, when we learned about Fitzgerald's "lyrical prose" style.

Today, please read chapter 3.

Lesson 10: chapter 3 response questions.

1. Would you want to go to one of Gatsby's parties? Why / why not?
2. We actually meet Gatsby in this chapter (finally!) What impression is created from each of the quotations below
 - a. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It... concentrated on YOU with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you just so far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself and assured you that it had precisely the impression of you that, at your best, you hoped to convey.
 - b. I was looking at an elegant young rough-neck, a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd... I'd got a strong impression that he was picking his words with care.
 - c. When the 'Jazz History of the World' was over girls were putting their heads on men's shoulders in a puppyish, convivial way, girls were swooning backward playfully into men's arms, even into groups knowing that some one would arrest their falls—but no one swooned backward on Gatsby and no French bob touched Gatsby's shoulder and no singing quartets were formed with Gatsby's head for one link
3. The chapter ends with a section of self-reflection from Nick. His narrative makes it clear that he is lonely – he tells us *I felt a haunting loneliness sometimes* - and as a result, or coincidentally, he starts to spend more time with Jordan. Does he love her?

Lesson 11: read chapter 4 up to the line *Even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder.*

Lesson 12: chapter 4 response questions:

1. What impression does Gatsby want to create of himself, from each of these details:
 - a) 'I am the son of some wealthy people in the middle-west
 - b) educated at Oxford
 - c) my ancestors have been educated there for many years. It is a family tradition.'
 - d) 'My family all died and I came into a good deal of money.
 - e) I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe—Paris, Venice, Rome—collecting jewels, chiefly rubies,
 - f) painting a little
 - g) trying to forget something very sad that had happened to me long ago
 - h) In the Argonne Forest I took two machine-gun detachments so far forward that there was a half mile gap on either side of us where the infantry couldn't advance. We stayed there two days and two nights, a hundred and thirty men with sixteen Lewis guns, and when the infantry came up at last they found the insignia of three German divisions among the piles of dead. I was promoted to be a major and every Allied government gave me a decoration'

Lesson 13: read the next section of ch 4, from the paragraph that begins "roaring noon" up to the line I turned toward Mr. Gatsby, but he was no longer there.

Response questions:

1. Look up the World Series 1919 scandal. Why might Fitzgerald have included reference to a real-life betting scandal in the novel?
2. Wolfsheim is a gangster. What might Gatsby's association and close relationship with him lead us to conclude about Gatsby?
3. How did Gatsby feel about Daisy, from the line The officer looked at Daisy while she was speaking, in a way that every young girl wants to be looked at sometime, and because it seemed romantic to me I have remembered the incident ever since.
4. Why didn't the romance last?
5. What did Daisy's family think about her romance with the young soldier?
6. How did Daisy react to the break up, in each of these references:
 - a. After that she didn't play around with the soldiers any more but only with a few flat-footed, 82 The Great Gatsby short-sighted young men in town who couldn't get into the army at all.
 - b. By the next autumn she was gay again, gay as ever
 - c. in February she was presumably engaged to a man from New Orleans.
 - d. In June she married Tom Buchanan of Chicago with more pomp and circumstance than Louisville ever knew before.
7. Tom gives Daisy a necklace of pearls. If we think of them as a symbol, like the diamond collar referenced in Whoso List to Hunt, what might they symbolise?
8. Gatsby has written Daisy a letter, but it disintegrates in the water. In contrast, she tries to throw the pearls from Tom away, but they are easily retrieved from the

wastepaper basket. How do these symbols contrast each other; how might they symbolise each relationship?

9. Daisy is happy with Tom at first; besotted, in fact: *I thought I'd never seen a girl so mad about her husband... She used to sit on the sand with his head in her lap by the hour rubbing her fingers over his eyes and looking at him with unfathomable delight.* Why might she be scared that he will leave her, as seen in the line "If he left the room for a minute she'd look around uneasily and say 'Where's Tom gone?' and wear the most abstracted expression until she saw him coming in the door"?
10. In the same paragraph, we learn that as early as their honeymoon, Tom had an affair. Who with?
11. Why doesn't Daisy drink?
12. Jordan seems to be fully supportive of Daisy having an affair with Gatsby. For what reason?
13. How did Gatsby come to live so close to Daisy and Tom?
14. How does Gatsby feel about Daisy today?

Lesson 14: read from to the end of ch 4.

This section of the narrative switches narrator for the first time. This is Jordan's narration, as told to Nick. In this section, we learn that Daisy and Gatsby had a relationship in 1918, before he went to war.

Lesson 15: end of ch 4 Response questions:

1. What can we ascertain about Daisy and her background, from the line: **The largest of the banners and the largest of the lawns belonged to Daisy Fay's house.**
2. "She dressed in white, and had a little white roadster." What might white symbolise?

Lesson 16.

I <3 **chapter 5**. It is luminous. To frame chapter 5, consider this: in an essay published in a collection called "My Lost City," Fitzgerald discusses his preoccupation with **time**. He was obsessed with the idea that "nothing gold can stay" (a line from a Robert Frost poem of 1923. Look it up, it's gorgeous). Anyway, Fitzgerald said this: **"And lastly from that period I remember riding in a taxi one afternoon between very tall buildings under a mauve and rosy sky; I began to bawl because I had everything I wanted and knew I would never be so happy again."**

This idea - that perfect happiness cannot last - permeates chapter 5. Keep that in mind as you read ch 5 today.

Lesson 17: ch 5 response **questions.**

1. Skim read back over the chapter. As you read, I want you to track the weather. Note down each time the weather is mentioned, and what the mood is at that point. Do you notice anything?

2. How does Gatsby feel in the hours leading up to his and Daisy's reunion? What about in the first moments after Daisy arrives?

3. The **pivotal moment** in this chapter is when Nick returns from his walk, after he has left Gatsby and Daisy alone: "there was a change in Gatsby that was simply confounding. He literally **glowed**; without a word or a gesture of exultation a **new well-being radiated** from him and filled the little room." You've got it: light imagery - what does this indicate? And in the next paragraph: " When he realized what I was talking about, that there were **twinkle-bells of sunshine** in the room, he smiled like a weather man, like an **ecstatic patron of recurrent light**, and repeated the news to Daisy. "What do you think of that? It's stopped raining."

Scan the chapter from here-on in for light references (Daisy's buttons sparkle; they light a cigarette, and so on) - it is remarkable how often he refers to light in this section. Why does he do it?

4. Why might Gatsby want Daisy to see his house? (*Think about why she was "effectually prevented" from marrying him when they first met*).

5. Gatsby has collected clippings (newspaper stories) about Daisy for years. What sort of love is this?

6. Close reading task. Read the section of text that I have annotated on the attached word document. What does this paragraph suggest about Gatsby's love for Daisy? ***email me this response please.***

Confusion

As I went over to say good-by I saw that the expression of bewilderment had come back into Gatsby's face, as though a faint doubt had occurred to him as to the standard of his present happiness. Almost five years! there must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams - not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything. He had thrown himself into it with huge energy a trick. A deceptive vision. Daisy in person CANNOT live up to his VISION of her in his imagination, where she is PERFECT a creative passion, adding to it all the time, decking it out with every bright feather that drifted his way. No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart. The imagery here indicates that his Daisy only exists in his imagination. he has embellished his idea of her, improving on the original. a reference to memory and nostalgia, and how we idealise the past as 'perfect'.

7. The chapter ends with a faint flow of thunder as the couple hold hands. What might this suggest about their future?

Lesson 18: read ch 6.

Lesson 19:

Your task today is to **watch the tutorial that I have attached and use it to annotate your copy of chapter 6 of The Great Gatsby.**

You can access it here <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/adaa2707-a283-45a4-b0c5-0d524b5b33f3>

Take it in at your own pace, and pause as you need to in order to take notes. The end of the chapter deserves close reading: it is my favourite passage of the novel for its magical description of "true love's first kiss" - it's like a fairytale. Well, according to Gatsby.

Watch the video, take notes, and then answer the question: what do we learn about Gatsby's love for Daisy in this section?

Lesson 20: Chapter 7

This is the longest chapter and it really moves the action on. It is set mainly in New York: it's interesting because we get a reversal of the "Green World" concept that is prevalent in Romantic comedies (and alluded to in *The Garden of Love*). So whereas the Green World is a typical setting for a romantic comedy, because **away** from the city our characters are free of the conventions of law-bound society, and we have the holiday atmosphere and the care-free feeling that "anything can happen," in this chapter our characters go **in** to the city, so we have the re-imposition **of rules and society's expectations and laws**.

We're going to read the chapter in 3 parts, as it's lengthy and so much happens. Today, please read up to the line "...her eyes, wide with jealous terror, were fixed not on Tom, but on Jordan Baker, whom she took to be his wife"

Questions:

1. what do you understand by Gatsby's comment to Nick that "Daisy comes over quite often - in the afternoons"?
2. What do you make of the fact that Daisy kisses Gatsby in full view of Nick and Jordan? And why does she then start to tap dance on the fireplace? How does this develop your opinion of her character, and her feelings towards Gatsby? Is there more than one way that we can interpret this?
3. What impression of Tom & Daisy's marriage is created at the start of the chapter, with Daisy believing that he is on the phone to his mistress (but pretending to make a car deal), and Daisy openly kissing Gatsby and saying "you know I love you" in front of their guests?
4. Tom realises Daisy loves Gatsby in this section. It's very subtle. The whole group are sweltering, and Daisy tells Gatsby "you always look so cool," and "you resemble the advertisement of the man." What she is saying, is that he is just what she needs, and he looks like an image of perfection: the "dream" man. How does Tom feel when he realises that his wife has got feelings for another man?
5. Which car is Tom driving when he stops at Wilson's garage on the way in to New York?
6. What news does Wilson give Tom about himself and Myrtle?
7. How is Wilson's reaction to his realisation about Myrtle's infidelity described?
8. What does Myrtle wrongly assume when she sees Tom, Nick and Jordan in the car?

Lesson 21: chapter 7, part 2.

Please read from "There is no confusion like the confusion of simple mind," to "So we drove on toward death in the cooling twilight."

1. What is Tom's mood as he arrives in New York?
2. Why might Fitzgerald have chosen to have a musical backdrop of the wedding march to this part of the novel? (Remember, they are in the city: law and order is re-imposed and the Green World has been left behind). What could this foreshadow?
3. Gatsby is totally excluded from the conversation about Louisville and Biloxi. Why?
4. Is Tom more offended by the fact that Gatsby is having an affair with Daisy, or that he is "Mr Nobody from Nowhere," in your opinion?
5. What is Gatsby's belief about his and Daisy's love?

6. Is Tom threatened by Gatsby's claim that their relationship has been "going on for five years"?
7. Tom claims "I love Daisy too...Once in a while I go off on a spree...but I always come back, and in my heart I love her all the time." How is this attitude similar to the attitude displayed in either of the Cavalier poems we have studied?
8. Gatsby believes that Daisy is his soulmate. We saw that at the end of chapter 6, and I explored it in the video tutorial you have watched. Why is it so important to him that Daisy tells Tom that she never loved him? (If she did love Tom too, could she and Gatsby still be soulmates?)
9. How does Tom try to win Daisy back? (2 things).
10. What makes Daisy ultimately choose Tom?
11. Why, at the end of the chapter, is Gatsby's dream of marrying Daisy referred to as a "dead dream"?
12. What car do Daisy and Gatsby drive home in, and what car do Tom, Nick and Jordan drive home in? How is this different to the journey in to New York?

Lesson 22: Today, please read to the end of chapter 7.

And if you haven't read it already, prepare to be S T U N N E D.

1. What happens to Myrtle?
2. Look at the descriptions of George Wilson in this section: "sick in his office - really sick," "swaying back and forth," uttering "a gasping moan." What does heartbreak do to Wilson?
3. It is important to be absolutely crystal clear: Gatsby's yellow car killed Myrtle.
 - a) Who drove the car IN to town, and who was in the car? (Remember, Myrtle saw them out of the window).
 - b) Who was in the car driving HOME from New York?
 - c) Who does Tom believe was behind the wheel?
 - d) Who was behind the wheel?
4. How does Tom react to Myrtle's death?
5. Gatsby is willing to take the blame for the accident, to protect Daisy: "I'll say I was [driving]." What conclusions can we draw from this?
6. Daisy has told Gatsby that she will "lock herself into her room" and "turn the light out and on again" if Tom "tries any brutality." (Isn't it interesting that he is waiting for light as a sign?) Given Daisy's reaction just before they left New York - when she chose Tom, not Gatsby - do you believe her?
7. Nick sees something that Gatsby does not: he sees Daisy and Tom eating together, holding hands, with an "air of natural intimacy." It is an image of absolute togetherness.
 - a) Why doesn't he tell Gatsby what he sees?
 - b) In not telling Gatsby, how is Gatsby's conception of Daisy's feelings for him, and his impression of the state of Daisy and Tom's marriage, affected?
8. By the end of the chapter, how would you describe Gatsby's feelings for Daisy? Platonic? Obsessive? Delusional? Idealistic? Fantastical? Doomed? Stupid? Optimistic? Or something else?

Lesson 23: Today, please read from the start of chapter 8 to the line "It was just noon."

We're going to step it up now: I'd like you to consider the ideas in this chapter and how they complement those in some of the poems.

Questions:

1. Symbolically, what is the significance of the fact that Gatsby tells Nick that Daisy "turned out the light"?
2. How can we connect the symbolic significance of the light going out here to the darkness / lack of light in *At an Inn* and / or *Ae Fond Kiss*?
3. What first attracted Gatsby to Daisy?
4. The line "he took her" suggests that he "took" her virginity. After this, "he felt married to her." How is this idea similar to that portrayed in *The Flea*?
5. Why did Daisy marry Tom?
6. Does Gatsby accept that the affair is over?

Lesson 24: Today, please read to the end of chapter 8.

You understand why this is my favourite EVER book now, right? Don't read on in this post until you've read it.

Don't!

Okay, so it's important to understand that the info Nick has, about Wilson's behaviour, and Michaelis' conversations with Wilson, **must** come from Michaelis' testimony at an inquest. Now we realise that it is Gatsby's inquest.

1. Look at the descriptions of Wilson: he "rocked himself back and forth" and makes incoherent groaning noises, and is reported as "acting sort of crazy." How has heartbreak affected him?
2. Wilson says that he has a way of finding out who the car belonged to. That's because he saw Tom driving it, so he knows that Tom knew the driver (He says, "I have a way of finding out"). Therefore, we can conclude that Tom told Wilson that Gatsby was driving. Wilson then concludes that it was Gatsby having the affair with Myrtle - "It was the man in the car." How does he respond? What can we learn from this about the effects of jealousy?
3. Does Gatsby believe that he still has hope of a reconciliation with Daisy?
4. Please open the attached resource where I have annotated a key passage from the end of the chapter. Transfer my notes on to your copy of the text, and use the annotations and your own ideas to respond to this question: How is Gatsby affected by the loss of Daisy's love, in Nick's opinion?

Gatsby shouldered the mattress and started for the pool. Once he stopped and shifted it a little, and the chauffeur asked him if he needed help, but he shook his head and in a moment disappeared among the yellowing trees.

Daisy didn't phone

No telephone message arrived, but the butler went without his sleep and waited for it until four o'clock — until, long after there

Do you think Gatsby had given up hope? Nick's assumption
I have an idea that Gatsby himself didn't believe it would come, and perhaps he no longer

true or false, in your opinion?

cared. If that was true he must have felt that he had lost the old warm world, paid a high price for living too long with a single

— if Daisy doesn't love him, his idea of the world totally changes.

There is no beauty in the world if Daisy doesn't love him.

dream. He must have looked up at an unfamiliar sky through frightening leaves and shivered as he found what a grotesque

thing a rose is and how raw the sunlight was upon the scarcely

progressive, logical, scientific.

created grass. A new world, material without being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air, drifted fortuitously

dreams are worthless in this new world by chance

about . . . like that ashen, fantastic figure gliding toward him

formless through the amorphous trees.

If she doesn't love him the world is devoid of

5. How does Gatsby die, and who kills him?
6. Look up the word "holocaust." Why might Fitzgerald have used it here?

Lesson 25: Today, please read chapter 9.

Have you recovered from chapter 8? It makes me sob. I think that the section where Nick speculates about Gatsby's realisation that the world cannot be viewed through a Romantic lens is heart breaking. However, we can't forget that that speculation is Nick's narrative. I think that Gatsby did die with his dream intact: he believed that Daisy would call: this is what we refer to as his "incorruptible dream," and why many critics consider this to be a novel about the American Dream. *Paraphrase what I've written here in your notes; we'll come back to it.*

1. Are you surprised that Daisy leaves with Tom, and doesn't "send a message or a flower" to pay her respects to Gatsby? Why / why not?
2. Was Gatsby a bootlegger?
3. Why doesn't anybody go to his funeral? Does this surprise you, after the accounts of his raucous parties and popularity earlier in the novel? What point might Fitzgerald be making here?
4. What happens between Nick and Jordan, in the end?
5. When Nick meets Tom in New York, we learn that Tom really did think that Gatsby was driving. This is significant for 2 reasons: firstly, because when he told Wilson Gatsby's identity, we can speculate that Tom might have been trying to somehow avenge Myrtle's death, and secondly because this fact highlights the fact that Daisy has not told Tom that she was driving. Therefore we become aware that their marriage is not open and honest, but founded on secrets and lies. **Please write these ideas down in your notes.** Question: what does Tom's dialogue about Gatsby reveal about his feelings for Myrtle and his relationship with Daisy?
6. Tom is going in to a jewellery store to buy a pearl necklace. i) On what other occasion are we told that he bought a pearl necklace? ii) What can we speculate about Tom's behaviour from this anecdote? iii) How is a necklace symbolic? (Please refer to both *The Great Gatsby* and *Whoso List to Hunt* in your answer).
7. Nick's closing narrative seems to suggest that Gatsby's quest for Daisy was futile, and that he could never achieve it. Yet he also acknowledges that this ambition and hope - that we can thrive in the face of obstacles and adversity - is part of the human condition: ***tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms further... And one fine morning --- So we beat on, boats against the current...*** Was Gatsby right to pursue Daisy's love, even in the knowledge of the obstacles he was up against, do you think? Fully explain your answer.

Lesson 26: consolidation.

Question: Who is your most or least favourite character in *The Great Gatsby*, and why?

Please respond as you have been taught, using analytical paragraphs, (you may like to use the PEARL or PETAL structure, as they will help you to address all of the AOs). In your answer you should use supporting quotations to justify your opinions, a good range of **literature terminology** to analyse the text, and refer to relevant contextual details.

