

The Great Gatsby – Chapter 1 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three of the following and answer thoughtfully. Your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. Why do you think Fitzgerald chose Nick Carraway to be the narrator of the story?
 2. What kind of relationship exists between Nick and the Buchanans? Why do you feel that the relationship is this way?
 3. Why does Daisy always speak in such exaggerated phrases?
 4. What is the significance of Tom's reference to the book he is reading?
 5. Why does Daisy hope her child will be a beautiful fool?
 6. Why does Nick feel that Daisy is trying to show off her cynicism?
 7. Why does Daisy describe her youth as a "white girlhood"?
 8. Why do you think Gatsby reaches out to the water?
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The Great Gatsby – Chapters 2 -3 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three and answer thoughtfully in your journal; your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. Why did Tom and Myrtle want Nick to go with them to the apartment?
 2. Why is the end of Chapter 2 so disjointed? What had Nick been doing all evening that might have caused this strange narrative?
 3. What arrives at Gatsby's house every Friday and leaves on Monday? What does this tell you about the parties Gatsby's hosts?
 4. What discovery does the owl-eyed man make in Gatsby's library? What symbolic meaning could this reference have about society in the 1920s?
 5. On what does the owl-eyed man blame the accident after Gatsby's party? What is ironic about this claim?
 6. How does Nick describe Jordan at the end of Chapter 3? What do we learn about her that would support this statement?
 7. Why does Jordan say, "I hate careless people. That's why I like you"?
 8. What unique quality do we learn that Nick possesses?
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The Great Gatsby – Chapter 4 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three and answer thoughtfully in your journal; your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. Why do you think Gatsby calls Nick "Old Sport"?
 2. Who is Meyer Wolfsheim? What seems to be his connection with Gatsby? What does this tell us about Gatsby?
 3. Jordan Baker tells Nick about Daisy, Gatsby, and Tom. Summarize the story.
 4. How does Daisy behave after Gatsby goes overseas? What does her behavior show about her feelings for Gatsby?
 5. 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. 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?
 10. 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?
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The Great Gatsby – Chapters 5 - 6 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three and answer thoughtfully in your journal; your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. Why does Nick reject Gatsby's offer of business? What does this tell us about Nick?

2. What is the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy like initially? When Nick returns to the house half an hour later, how are Daisy and Gatsby different? How do these attitudes correlate with the weather?
 3. 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."
 4. Why do you think Daisy sobs when Gatsby shows her his shirts?
 5. What are Gatsby's feelings by the end of the chapter? Gatsby's dreams seem to be fulfilled; however, there are indications that reality simply cannot satisfy his dreams. What are these indicators?
 6. When and why does James Gatz change his name?
 7. What is Daisy's real reaction to Gatsby's party?
 8. 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?
 9. 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?
 10. 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?
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The Great Gatsby – Chapter 7 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three and answer thoughtfully in your journal; your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. Why did Gatsby fire all of his servants? Who replaced them? What was unique about these replacements?
 2. 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'?
 3. Why does Wilson suddenly need money from Tom?
 4. Why does Fitzgerald emphasize the heat? Of what could the weather be symbolic?
 5. What is ironic about Tom saying that he has second sight?
 6. What is the significance of "Blocks" Biloxi? Why do you think Fitzgerald inserted this little tid-bit?
 7. 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.
 8. Why does Tom refer to the liaison between Daisy and Gatsby in terms of intermarriage?
 9. 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.
 10. Why does Nick change his feelings toward Jordan?
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The Great Gatsby – Chapters 8 – 9 Journal Prompts

Directions: Pick three and answer thoughtfully in your journal; your responses must total at least ½ page.

1. How does Nick leave Gatsby?
2. How does Nick compliment Gatsby and what is Gatsby's reaction? Why is it important that Nick thank Gatsby?
3. Why do Tom and Daisy leave?
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"?
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.
10. What does Nick mean when he says "the holocaust was complete"?