

***The Great Gatsby*-Chapters 5 and 6**
The Making of a Dream... The Making of a Man

Name _____
Per. ____

After Gatsby and Daisy meet for tea at Nick's home, Nick says, "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." (p. 95/101)

First, in one sentence, what is "his dream?"

Second, what does Nick mean when he says, "Daisy tumbled short... because of the colossal vitality of his illusion?"

Now get specific:

Creation of the Dream-Locate the passages below and explain how each relates to Gatsby and his dream at this point in time. Be sure to discuss Fitzgerald's use of specific words, phrases, figurative language, etc. Start each response with "Gatsby is...", or "Gatsby's dream is...", or "The illusion of Gatsby's dream...", then use specific words or phrases from the passage to show Gatsby's dream and/or the illusion of Gatsby's dream.

1. Chapter 5, the paragraph beginning "He hadn't once ceased looking at Daisy..." (p. 91/96)
2. Chapter 5, the paragraph beginning, "He had passed visibly through two states..." (p.91-bottom/97)
3. Chapter 5, the two paragraphs beginning, "If it wasn't for the mist we could see your home..." (p. 92-bottom/98)
4. Chapter 5, the paragraph beginning, "As I went over to say good-by, I saw that the expression..." (p.95/101)

And now the “creation” of Gatsby, (or might I say, “The Form of the Gatsby?”) Read the handouts and locate the passages below and explain how each relates to Gatsby and his dream at this point in time.

First, read Plato’s Allegory of the Cave handout, then watch the video of Plato’s Allegory of the cave, (the second “hit” under “Videos” when searching “Plato’s Allegory of the Cave.”)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTWwY8Ok5I0>)

5. Chapter 6, the paragraph beginning “I supposed he’d had the name ready for a long time...” (p. 98/104)

6. Chapter 6, the paragraph beginning “But his heart...” (p. 99-top/105)

7. We discussed “the illusion” of Daisy, but what about Gatsby? Is he “real”? What *is in the text* that makes you say so?

Let’s put it together:

First, a couple of quotations from the novel to keep in mind:

*“The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his **Platonic** conception of himself.” (98/104)*

*“He talked a lot about the past and I gathered that he wanted to recover something, some **idea** of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy.” (110/117)*

But do read: Chapter 6, the paragraph beginning “He wanted nothing less of Daisy than she should go to Tom...” to the end of the chapter. (p. 109-111/116). Pay particularly close attention to: “Out of the corner of his eye Gatsby saw that the blocks of the sidewalk really formed a ladder and mounted to a secret place above the trees...” (110/117).

And now read the handout of story of “Jacob’s Ladder”...

1. What makes Gatsby great (according to Nick)?
2. What choice does Gatsby make at this point in his life? (pg. 117)
3. How do the following passages aide in our understanding of the significance of this decision to Gatsby? (then, in 1917, and now, in 1922)?

4. **Now, think about and respond to this questions:** If Gatsby is a symbol of your country – for better and for worse – what does F. Scott Fitzgerald say about your country – for better and for worse? Phrase it this way...

Since Gatsby (is/does/doesn't/tries to/etc.) then America must be

Chapter 6 A Few More Discussion Questions

(This might be a simpler way to get some answers, but not nearly a mind blowing as getting your answers through an understanding Plato's Allegory and Jacob's Ladder!)

1. Summarize the truth we learn about Gatsby's past. (Be sure to consider both his his parents and Dan Cody.)
2. Nick tells us that he learned of Gatsby's past much later. Why, then, does he choose this time to tell us about it?
3. Re-read the paragraph that starts on the bottom of page 113. Explain, in your own words, why the party offended Daisy. What is the significance of Daisy not enjoying the party?
4. What is your response as a reader to Gatsby's words, "Can't repeat the past?...Why of course you can!"
5. "He broke off and began to walk up and down a desolate path of fruit rinds and discarded favors and crushed flowers." Many readers consider that description of the setting which appears just before the words quoted in question 4 to be symbolic. Discuss how it might be symbolic.
6. How can Gatsby's naïve, romantic capacity for wonder and the almost "adolescent" quality of the life he has created for himself be seen as both a strength and a weakness?
7. Consider the following comments by Tom Buchanan. What do these comments reveal about him? Explain.

"...women run around too much these days to suit me."

"Well, he (Gatsby) certainly must have strained himself to get this menagerie together."

"A lot of these newly rich people are just big bootleggers, you know."