The Great Gatsby

FSF,KM

Introduc tion

Chapter 1

## The Great Gatsby

On a Famous American Novel from the Jazz Age

F. Scott Fitzgerald<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Original Author

September 2025 / Free Learner's School Conversations

#### Outline

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- We Started a Serial Reading in September 2025 as A Part of Reading Requirements for Rujuta's High School English.
- These Are My (KM) Notes
- Structure: Verbatim Passages (main bullet points), Thoughts (sub bullet points), Vocab (footnotes).
- Nothing Specific. I Like Doing This. Perhaps It Helps Retain, Even While Reading Fiction?

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- "Whenever You Feel Like Criticizing Any One", He Told Me, "Just Remember That All The People in This World Haven't Had The Advantages That You've Had."
  - Nick Carraway Starts The Novel as A First-person Narrative. Gatsby Is Introduced Soon.
- ...In Consequence, I'm Inclined to Reserve All Judgments, ...
- ...Reserving Judgments Is A Matter of Infinite Hope. I Am Still A Little Afraid of Missing Something If I Forget That, ...
- And, After Boasting This Way of My Tolerance, I Came to The Admission That It Has A Limit.

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- If Personality Is An Unbroken Series of Successful Gestures, Then There Was Something Gorgeous about Him [Gatsby], Some Heightened Sensitivity to The Promises of Life, as If He Were Related to One of Those Machines That Registered Earthquakes Ten Thousand Miles Away . . .
  - Unusual Way to Introduce a Protagonist! He Was That Sensitive!
- ... The Actual Founder of My Line Was My Grandfather's Brother, Who Came Here in [18]Fifty-one, Sent A Substitute to The Civil Wa
  - During The American Civil War, A Provision Known as Substitution Allowed Men Drafted into Military Service to Pay Someone Else to Serve in Their Place.
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- I Participated in That Delayed Teutonic Migration.
  - ...a Sarcastic Allusion Referring to The Great War (World War I) as a Belated and More Peaceful Version of Ancient German (Teutonic) Migrations into Europe
- A Weatherbeaten Cardboard Bungalow at Eighty A Month . . .
  - Shows A Sharp Economic Contrast w His Rich Neighbors . . .
- ... And A Finnish Woman, Who Made My Bed And Cooked Breakfast And Muttered Finnish Wisdom to Herself Over The Electric Stove.
- I Lived at West Egg, The–Well, The Less Fashionable of The Two. . . .
- So I Had A View of The Water, ... And The Consoling Proximity of Millionaires—All For Eighty Dollars A Month.

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- On [Tom Buchanan]... Who Reach Such An Acute Limited Excellence That Everything After Savors of Anticlimax.
  - This Is A Satirical Remark. Tom Clearly Represents
    The [Less Intellectual, And] Traditionally Wealthy
    Family Member (The East Egg) from The Mid-west
    Who Ventured to The East, A Land of The Neo-Rich
    (The West Egg).
- She Was Extended Full Length at Her End of The Divan . . .
- The Other Girl, Daisy, ... "I'm P-paralyzed with Happiness".
  - Tom, Daisy, Miss Baker–The East Eggs
- The Object She [Baker] Was Balancing Had Obviously Tottered<sup>1</sup>...Almost Any Exhibition of Complete

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Move Walk Unsteadily

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¹Move, Walk Unsteadily.

Things Began to Heat up in A Family Party of Strangers

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- Well, [Daisy, While Talking to Nick,] She [Daisy-Tom's Daughter] Was Less Than An Hour Old And Tom Was God Knows Where. [After Knowing She Delivered A Baby Girl] ... That's The Best Thing a Girl Can Be in This World, A Beautiful Little Fool.
  - Daisy Seems to Think That The World Is Brutal for Women!
- (Tom and Miss Baker Are Together) The Lamp-light, Bright on His Boots And Dull on The Autumn-Leaf Yellow of Her Hair, Glinted Along The Paper as She Turned A Page With a Flutter<sup>2</sup> of Slender Muscles in Her Arms.
- (Nick Is About to Leave after A *Strange* Party) As I Started My Motor Daisy Peremptorily<sup>3</sup> Called: "Wait



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Quick Movement, Vibration

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Decisively, Imperatively,

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## Chapter 01: 06 In The Unquiet Darkness

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  - This is Fitzgerald's Evocative Writing Style. Though This Atmosphere is Alien to Me And I Am Ambivalent about Huge Mansions and Wealthy Lifestyles, I Feel Like Reading On.
  - We Are All a Little Strange, But These Characters, Tom, Daisy, Jordan Feel Even Stranger. One (Who's Not Wealthy And Isn't Attracted to Wealth) Cannot Escape a Feeling of Contempt for the Ultra-rich.

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