

Here are some selected excerpt or quotes from The Great Gatsby to help you in analyzing each character for the Marking Period 1 Project: The Great Gatsby Character Analysis Essay

The Great Gatsby PDF

Chapter 1- pages 1-25

Chapter 2- pages 26-42

Chapter 3- pages 43-65

Quick Links to Characters

[Nick Carraway](#)

[Jay Gatsby](#)

[Tom Buchanan](#)

[Daisy Buchanan](#)

[Myrtle Wilson](#)

[Jordan Baker](#)

[George Wilson](#)

Characterizing Nick Carraway

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Himself Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Nick?• What character trait describes Nick based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Him Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Nick?• What character trait describes Nick based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Nick's inner thoughts: Chapter 1 Page 3</p> <p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. '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.'</p> <p>In consequence I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores.</p> <p>"So it came about that in college I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men."</p> <p>"Frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation, or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon."</p> <p>I am still a little afraid of missing something if I forget that, as my father snobbishly suggested, and I snobbishly repeat a sense of the fundamental decencies is parcelled out unequally at birth.</p> <p>Nick's inner thoughts : Chapter 1 Page 4</p> <p>Conduct may be founded on the hard rock or the wet marshes but after a certain point I don't care what it's founded on.</p>	<p>Speaker: Daisy, Chapter 1 page 17</p> <p>'I love to see you at my table, Nick. You remind me of a— of a rose, an absolute rose. Doesn't he?' She turned to Miss Baker for confirmation. 'An absolute rose?'</p> <p>Speaker: Daisy, Chapter 1 Page 20</p> <p>'We don't know each other very well, Nick,' she said suddenly. 'Even if we are cousins. You didn't come to my wedding.'</p>

When I came back from the East last autumn I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever;

I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart.

**Nick's inner thoughts, Chapter 2 page 39
(PDF)/35 (hardcover)**

"I wanted to get out and walk eastward toward the park through the soft twilight but each time I tried to go I became entangled in some wild strident argument which pulled me back, as if with ropes, into my chair. Yet high over the city our line of yellow windows must have contributed their share of human secrecy to the casual watcher in the darkening streets, and I was him too, looking up and wondering. **I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life.**"

Nick's inner thoughts, Chapter 3 page 65

Every one suspects himself of at least one of the cardinal virtues, and this is mine: **I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known.**

Characterizing Jay Gatsby

<p>Quote from the Character</p> <p>What the Character Say About Himself</p> <p>Thinking Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Gatsby? • What character trait describes Gatsby based on the evidence/quote from the text? 	<p>Quote from Another Character</p> <p>What Other Character Say About Him</p> <p>Thinking Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Gatsby? • What character trait describes Gatsby based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Gatsby, Chapter 3 page 52</p> <p>At a lull in the entertainment the man looked at me and smiled. 'Your face is familiar,' he said, politely. 'Weren't you in the Third Division during the war?' (Fitzgerald, page 52)</p> <p>Gatsby, Chapter 3 Page 48</p> <p>"If you want anything just ask for it, old sport," he urged me. "Excuse me. I will rejoin you later." (Fitzgerald, page 48).</p>	<p>Speaker: Nick Chapter 1 Page 4</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If personality is an unbroken series of successful gestures, then there was something gorgeous about him, some heightened sensitivity to the promises of life, as if he were related to one of those intricate machines that register earthquakes ten thousand miles away.</p> <p>This responsiveness had nothing to do with that flabby impressionability which is dignified under the name of the 'creative temperament'—it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again.</p>
	<p>No—Gatsby turned out all right at the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men.</p>

Gatsby, Chapter 3 page 53 ‘I thought you knew, old sport. I’m afraid I’m not a very good host.’	Speaker: Owl Eyes, Chapter 3 page 50 ‘See!’ he cried triumphantly. ‘It’s a bona fide piece of printed matter. It fooled me. This fella’s a regular Belasco. It’s a triumph. What thoroughness! What realism! Knew when to stop too—didn’t cut the pages. But what do you want? What do you expect?’
	Nick, Chapter 3 page 53 (His reaction when he first met Gatsby) I was looking at an elegant young rough-neck, a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd. Some time before he introduced himself I’d got a strong impression that <u>he was picking his words with care.</u>

Characterizing Tom Buchanan

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Himself Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Tom?• What character trait describes Tom based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Him Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Tom?• What character trait describes Tom based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Tom, page 16</p> <p>'Well, 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.'</p>	<p>Speaker : Nick-Chapter 1 page 8</p> <p>Her husband, among various physical accomplishments, had been one of the most powerful ends that ever played football at New Haven—a national figure in a way, one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anti-climax.</p> <p>Speaker: Nick- From Page 9</p> <p>He had changed since his New Haven years. Now he was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner.</p> <p>Two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward.</p> <p>Not even the effeminate swank of his riding clothes could hide the enormous power of that body—he seemed to fill those glistening boots until he strained the top lacing and you could see a great pack of muscle shifting when his shoulder moved</p>

	<p>under his thin coat. It was a body capable of enormous leverage—a cruel body.</p> <p>Nick narrating: From PDF page 9-10</p> <p>'Now, don't think my opinion on these matters is final,' he seemed to say, 'just because I'm stronger and more of a man than you are.' We were in the same Senior Society, and while we were never intimate I always had the impression that he approved of me and wanted me to like him with some harsh, defiant wistfulness of his own.</p>
<p>Tom, Chapter 1 Page 13</p> <p>'What you doing, Nick?'</p> <p>'I'm a bond man.'</p> <p>'Who with?' I told him.</p> <p>'Never heard of them,' he remarked decisively.</p> <p>This annoyed me. (This is Nick's inner thoughts).</p>	<p>Daisy, From Chapter 1 Page 15</p> <p>'Look!' she complained. 'I hurt it.' We all looked—the knuckle was black and blue.</p> <p>'You did it, Tom,' she said accusingly. 'I know you didn't mean to but you DID do it. That's what I get for marrying a brute of a man, a great big hulking physical specimen of a—'</p>
<p>Tom, From Chapter 1 Page 15-16</p> <p>'Civilization's going to pieces,' broke out Tom violently. 'I've gotten to be a terrible pessimist about things. Have you read 'The Rise of the Coloured Empires' by this man Goddard?'</p> <p>'Well, it's a fine book, and everybody ought to read it. The idea is if we don't look out the white race will be—will be utterly submerged. It's all scientific stuff; it's been proved.'</p> <p>'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.'</p>	<p>Nick's thoughts, from Chapter 1 page 16</p> <p>There was something pathetic in his concentration as if his complacency, more acute than of old, was not enough to him any more.</p> <p>Speaker: Jordan Baker, Chapter 1 page 18</p> <p>'Why—' she said hesitantly, 'Tom's got some woman in New York.'</p> <p>Tom and Myrtle arguing (Chapter 2)</p> <p>Sometime toward midnight Tom Buchanan and Mrs. Wilson stood face to face, discussing in impassioned voices whether Mrs. Wilson had any right to mention Daisy's name. "Daisy, Daisy...Tom</p>

'This idea is that we're Nordics. I am, and you are and you are and---' After an infinitesimal hesitation he included Daisy with a slight nod and she winked at me again. '--and we've produced all the things that go to make civilization—oh, science and art and all that. Do you see?'

Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand" (Fitzgerald, page 37).

Nick's thoughts, Chapter 1 p.23-24

As for Tom, the fact that he 'had some woman in New York' was really less surprising than that he had been depressed by a book. Something was making him nibble at the edge of stale ideas as if his sturdy physical egotism no longer nourished his peremptory heart.

Characterizing Daisy Buchanan

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Herself Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Daisy?• What character trait describes Daisy based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Her Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Daisy?• What character trait describes Daisy based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Daisy, Chapter 1 Page 20</p> <p>'We don't know each other very well, Nick,' she said suddenly.</p> <p>'Even if we are cousins. You didn't come to my wedding.'</p> <p>'I wasn't back from the war.' 'That's true.'</p> <p>She hesitated. 'Well, I've had a very bad time, Nick, and I'm pretty cynical about everything.'</p> <p>Daisy, Chapter 1 Page 20</p> <p>'Oh, yes.' She looked at me absently. 'Listen, Nick; let me tell you what I said when she was born. Would you like to hear?' 'Very much.' 'It'll show you how I've gotten to feel about—things. Well, she was less than an hour old and Tom was God knows where. I woke up out of the ether with an utterly abandoned feeling and asked the nurse right away if it was a boy or a girl. She told me it was a girl, and so I turned my head away and wept. 'All right,' I said, 'I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.'</p>	<p>Speaker: Tom Chapter 1 page 19</p> <p>'—It's romantic, isn't it, Tom?'</p> <p>'Very romantic,' he said, and then miserably to me: 'If it's light enough after dinner I want to take you down to the stables.'</p> <p>Nick's thoughts, Chapter 1 page 20</p> <p>The instant her voice broke off, ceasing to compel my attention, my belief, I felt the basic insincerity of what she had said. It made me uneasy, as though the whole evening had been a trick of some sort to exact a contributory emotion from me. I waited, and 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.</p>

'You see I think everything's terrible anyhow,' she went on in a convinced way. 'Everybody thinks so—the most advanced people. And I KNOW. I've been everywhere and seen everything and done everything.' Her eyes flashed around her in a defiant way, rather like Tom's, and she laughed with thrilling scorn. 'Sophisticated—God, I'm sophisticated!'

Characterizing Jordan Baker

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Herself Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Jordan?• What character trait describes Jordan based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Her Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Jordan?• What character trait describes Jordan based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Jordan, Chapter 1 page 13</p> <p>'Don't look at me,' Daisy retorted.</p> <p>'I've been trying to get you to New York all afternoon.'</p> <p>'No, thanks,' said Miss Baker to the four cocktails just in from the pantry, 'I'm absolutely in training.'</p>	<p>Nick's thoughts, Chapter 1 page 13</p> <p>I looked at Miss Baker wondering what it was she 'got done.' I enjoyed looking at her. She was a slender, small-breasted girl, with an erect carriage which she accentuated by throwing her body backward at the shoulders like a young cadet. Her grey sun-strained eyes looked back at me with polite reciprocal curiosity out of a wan, charming discontented face. It occurred to me now that I had seen her, or a picture of her, somewhere before.</p>
	<p>Speaker: Nick, Chapter 1 pages 21-22</p> <p>'Oh,—you're JORdan Baker.' I knew now why her face was familiar—its pleasing contemptuous expression had looked out at me from many rotogravure pictures of the sporting life at Asheville and Hot Springs and Palm Beach. I had heard some story of her too, a critical, unpleasant story, but what it was I had forgotten long ago.</p>
	<p>Speaker: Tom, Chapter 1 page 22</p> <p>'She's a nice girl,' said Tom after a moment.</p> <p>'They oughtn't to let her run around the country this way.'</p>

Nick's thoughts, Chapter 3 page 64

She was incurably dishonest. She wasn't able to endure being at a disadvantage, and given this unwillingness I suppose she had begun dealing in subterfuges when she was very young in order to keep that cool, insolent smile turned to the world and yet satisfy the demands of her hard jaunty body

Speaker: Nick, Chapter 3 page 64

'Suppose you met somebody just as careless as yourself.'

Characterizing Myrtle

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Herself Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about Myrtle?• What character trait describes Myrtle based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Her Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about Myrtle?• What character trait describes Myrtle based on the evidence/quote from the text?
<p>Myrtle, Chapter 2 page 29</p> <p>'Get some chairs, why don't you, so somebody can sit down.'</p>	<p>Speaker: Jordan Baker, Chapter 1, page 18 'She might have the decency not to telephone him at dinner-time. Don't you think?'</p>
<p>Myrtle talking about George (her husband), Chapter 2 page 38</p> <p>'I married him because I thought he was a gentleman,' she said finally. 'I thought he knew something about breeding, but he wasn't fit to lick my shoe.'</p>	<p>Nick's thoughts, Chapter 2 page 28 Then I heard footsteps on a stairs and in a moment the thickish figure of a woman blocked out the light from the office door. She was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her surplus flesh sensuously as some women can.</p>
<p>Myrtle, Chapter 2 page 30</p> <p>'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.'</p>	<p>Her face, above a spotted dress of dark blue crepe-de-chine, contained no facet or gleam of beauty but there was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually smouldering. She smiled slowly and walking through her husband as if he were a ghost shook hands with Tom, looking him flush in the eye.</p> <p>Tom, Chapter 2, page 29 'I want to see you,' said Tom intently. 'Get on the next train.'</p>
<p>Myrtle, Chapter 2 page 41</p> <p>Some time toward midnight Tom</p>	<p>Tom, Chapter 2, page 41 Making a short deft movement Tom Buchanan</p>

<p>Buchanan and Mrs. Wilson stood face to face discussing in impassioned voices whether Mrs. Wilson had any right to mention Daisy's name.</p> <p>'Daisy! Daisy! Daisy!' shouted Mrs. Wilson. 'I'll say it whenever I want to! Daisy! Dai—'</p>	<p>broke her nose with his open hand.</p>
	<p>Catherine, Chapter 2, page 37</p> <p>'Can't STAND them.' She looked at Myrtle and then at Tom. 'What I say is, why go on living with them if they can't stand them? If I was them I'd get a divorce and get married to each other right away.</p> <p>'Doesn't she like Wilson either?' The answer to this was unexpected. It came from Myrtle who had overheard the question and it was violent and obscene. 'You see?' cried Catherine triumphantly.</p>

Characterizing George Wilson

Quote from the Character What the Character Say About Himself	Quote from Another Character What Other Character Say About Him
Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the quote, what does it reveal about George?• What character trait describes George based on the evidence/quote from the text?	Thinking Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on what other characters say, what does it reveal about George?• What character trait describes George based on the evidence/quote from the text?
George, Chapter 2, page 28 <i>'I can't complain,' answered Wilson unconvincingly. 'When are you going to sell me that car?'</i>	Nick, Chapter 2, page 28 <i>He was a blonde, spiritless man, anaemic, and faintly handsome. When he saw us a damp gleam of hope sprang into his light blue eyes.</i>
George, Chapter 2, page 28 <i>'I don't mean that,' explained Wilson quickly. 'I just meant—'</i>	Tom, Chapter 2, page 28 <i>'No, he doesn't,' said Tom coldly. 'And if you feel that way about it, maybe I'd better sell it somewhere else after all.'</i> Myrtle, Chapter 2, page 29 <i>'Get some chairs, why don't you, so somebody can sit down.'</i>
	Tom, Chapter 2, page 29-30 <i>Wilson? He thinks she goes to see her sister in New York. He's so dumb he doesn't know he's alive.'</i>