

# Annotation Guide: *The Great Gatsby*

## Big Ideas and skills:

- ❖ Theme - What is/are themes for the book?
- ❖ Symbol - What is a symbol? what might be symbols in *Gatsby*?
- ❖ Characterization - How does Fitzgerald create and reveal multiple sides of each character?
- ❖ The American Dream: What is it? What was it? Is it relevant? How has it changed?
- ❖ How do I use quotes to support my ideas?

Take notes on the following topics as you read. Make sure that you add to these notes throughout the chapter. They are not necessarily in order of appearance. **Please write in complete sentences.**

- For this unit, you will write an essay using text to support a thesis statement. By marking passages in the book now, you're preparing for that essay. So, paraphrase with page and paragraph numbers in the space below. Using sticky notes as you read will help, too.

## Chapter 1

- ❖ *Gatsby*. Consider:
  - Nick's reflections/comments about him.
  - Rumors, what others say.
  
- ❖ Nick, the narrator. Consider:
  - What he tells us about his background. --His reflections on other people.
  - Your instinct: Like or not? Why?
  
- ❖ Setting. Consider:
  - East Egg, West Egg
  - What kind of reputation/people does each place have? Where do our characters live?
  
- ❖ The Buchannans, Tom and Daisy. Consider:
  - Interactions with others, what they say/do. -Where they live
  - What Nick says about them -Your instinct: Like or not? Why?

- ❖ Jordan. Consider:
  - What she says.                   -What is revealed about her.
  - What Nick thinks.               -Your instinct: Like or not? Why?
  
- ❖ Nick, Daisy's relationship. Describe and comment.
  
- ❖ Tom's secret. What is revealed about him?
  
- ❖ Tom and Daisy's connection to their daughter. Describe and comment.
  
- ❖ Describe Gatsby's actions at the end of the chapter.

## **Chapter 2**

- ❖ Summarize the description of the "valley of ashes." What might this represent?
  
- ❖ Summarize the description of the "eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg." What might this represent?
  
- ❖ Tom's secret. What more do we know?
  
- ❖ George Wilson.

- Personality and actions.
- Your instinct: Do you like him? Why or why not?

❖ Myrtle Wilson. Consider

- Personality and actions.
- Your instinct: Do you like her? Why or why not?

❖ 158th Street Apartment. Consider:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ➤ Description                        | -Events at this setting                       |
| ➤ People in attendance               | -Marriages - ideas about marriage represented |
| ➤ Does this changes/add to the plot? | -How Tom's actions reflect on his character   |

### Chapter 3

❖ Gatsby. Consider:

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ➤ Gatsby's wealth.                 | -What we know about him for certain. |
| ➤ Rumors                           | -His parties: attendees, setting     |
| ➤ Your instinct: Like or not? Why? |                                      |

❖ Nick Carraway. Reconsider:

- |                     |                  |              |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| ➤ Nick's background | -His personality | -His actions |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|

❖ Describe Nick's interaction with Gatsby

- ❖ Describe Nick's interaction with Jordan

## Chapter 4

- ❖ Gatsby. Consider
  - Klipspringer -What we now know about Gatsby's history
  - Using Jordan as a go-between

- ❖ Mr. Wolfshiem. Consider.
  - Personality and actions -Overall description
  - Your instinct: Like or not? Why?

- ❖ Daisy, Gatsby and Tom's history:

## Chapter 5

- ❖ Describe the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy
  - Daisy's words/actions
  - Gatsby's words/actions
  - Nick's role and reaction
  - Your thoughts
  
- ❖ What does Daisy seem to represent to Gatsby? (now? in the past?)
  
- ❖ What do we know about Gatsby's house, clothing, guests, money?
  
- ❖ Significance of the green light?

## Chapter 6

- ❖ Describe what we know now about Gatsby
  - history
  - Dan Cody
  - Gatsby's hopes
  
- ❖ Gatsby, Daisy, Nick, Tom, and Jordan at Gatsby's party
  - What's each person's experience? Daisy's opinion?

## Chapter 7

- ❖ Describe Gatsby's reaction to:
  - Daisy's child
  - Tom
  - Tom's treatment of Daisy/Tom's relationship with Daisy
  
- ❖ Wilson and Myrtle: describe their interaction, and how we know what's going on with them.
  
- ❖ Describe Daisy's reaction to Tom and Gatsby's interaction
  
- ❖ Incident on the way home from New York
  
- ❖ Myrtle's actions (what she believes, how she acts)
  
- ❖ Reactions to the incident:
  - Wilson:
  
  - Tom:
  
  - Nick:
  
  - Gatsby:
  
- ❖ How Daisy, Tom, Gatsby, and Nick end the chapter:

## Chapter 8

- ❖ Describe what the reader knows now about Gatsby's past
  
- ❖ Differing beliefs about Myrtle and Gatsby
  
  
- ❖ Wilson: actions, words, beliefs

## Chapter 9

- ❖ Describe the funeral,
  - who attends,
  - what it's like
  
- ❖ Jimmy's book -
  - what is it?
  - what's in it?
  - what might it represent?
  
  
- ❖ Nick, Jordan Baker
  - what happens
  - your thoughts about them
  
  
- ❖ What Nick says about people like Daisy and Tom and why he might say it.
  - Your thoughts about Nick, Daisy, Tom, the ending...

## Guiding Questions - 2015

- Wealth.
  - How does money and wealth and the characters' attitudes towards it affect their social status, the events in the novel, and their happiness?
- Place.
  - How does place show significance for the characters? Think about how where the characters live affects their social status in this novel.
- Symbolism.
  - Note recurrent symbolism in the book and tie it into the overall themes of the story.
- Characterization.
  - How does Fitzgerald create these characters and reveal multiple sides of them to the reader. Also, consider these characters as if they were people in your social world. Who do you like and who do you dislike. Why?
- The American Dream.
  - How do the characters and the social structure in this novel relate to the American Dream? If Fitzgerald is trying to make commentary on that idea, what do you think he's saying or pointing out to his readers?