

# *The Great Gatsby* Socratic Seminar

## Main Characters

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## Satellite Characters

## Theme

### Nick

At the beginning of the novel, Nick mentions that he is "inclined to reserve all judgments" (1). As a character, does Nick undergo any changes? At the end of the novel, does he still reserve all judgments? How do you feel about Nick? Is it easy to relate to him? Why or why not? Do you feel sorry for him at all? Why or why not?

### Tom

Most people would agree that Tom Buchanan is an awful person. By no means does he seem like someone to befriend. He constantly presents himself as strong, intelligent, and superior. Is he as strong as he lets everyone believe? Is he secure? Why or why not? Why do you suppose he behaves the way he does?

### George Wilson

George is an endearing character who seems to have a difficult life. He is mistreated by nearly every other character in the novel. At one point, George is fixated on the eyes of Dr. Eckleburg. Why? Do you feel sorry for George, even after he kills Gatsby? Is it significant that George, the one moral character in the book, is the one who kills him? How so?

### The American Dream

Throughout the novel, Fitzgerald presents the American Dream in a variety of ways, mainly through the dreams of Gatsby. What does the novel suggest about the American Dream? According to Fitzgerald, does the American Dream exist? Can a person be truly happy? How do you know? What does it suggest about illusion versus reality?

### Daisy

Daisy is among the most debated characters in the novel. Some say that she evokes sympathy, while others believe that she is an awful person. What is your opinion of Daisy? Is she a good person? Does she treat Gatsby fairly? Why or why not? Does she evoke any sympathy? Why or why not?

### Gatsby

Jay Gatsby is one of the most fascinating characters in literature. In the end, nothing works out as he planned. Think back to Nick's description in Chapter I. Do you agree with his assessment of Gatsby? Do you feel sorry for Gatsby? Why or why not? Did he get what he deserved? Is he a tragic hero? Why or why not?

### Jordan Baker

Although Jordan appears throughout most of the novel, by no means does the story revolve around her. What purpose does Jordan serve in the novel? Why does Fitzgerald choose to include her? Think about the interactions between Jordan and Nick. What does this reveal about the characters or about some aspect of society? How do you know?

### 1920s Society

In the novel, Fitzgerald makes a comment about relationships during the 1920s. What does this novel suggest about the nature of relationships? Think not only about the marriages, but about the friendships, as well. What commentary does the author make about relationships? How do you know? Based on the story, does real love exist?