

The Great Gatsby



By

F. Scott Fitzgerald

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

The Great Gatsby

By F. Scott Fitzgerald



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Revisions Completed in 2025

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each section of the novel study focuses on one chapter of *The Great Gatsby* and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Determining alphabetical order
11. Identify *personification*
12. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Completing a story pyramid
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research assignments
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a short story.
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an observation sheet
9. Write a history report

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a mural
3. Create a topical sketch
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip
6. Casting a feature film

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Synopsis

There was music from my neighbour's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars.

Everybody who is anybody is seen at the glittering parties held in millionaire Jay Gatsby's mansion in West Egg, east of New York. The riotous throng congregates in his sumptuous garden, coolly debating Gatsby's origins and mysterious past. None of the frivolous socialites understands him and among various rumours is the conviction that 'he killed a man'.

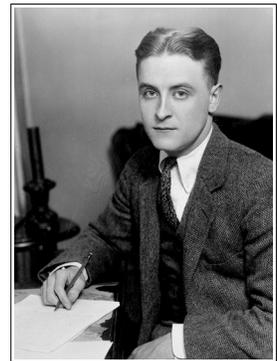
A detached onlooker, Gatsby is oblivious to the speculation he creates, but always seems to be watching and waiting, though no one knows what for.

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Gatsby - (Website contains plot spoilers)

Author Biography

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (September 24, 1896 – December 21, 1940), known professionally as **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, was an American novelist and short story writer, whose works illustrate the Jazz Age. While he achieved limited success in his lifetime, he is now widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the "**Lost Generation**" of the 1920s. He finished four novels: ***This Side of Paradise***, ***The Beautiful and Damned***, and ***Tender Is The Night***. A fifth, unfinished novel, ***The Love of the Last Tycoon***, was published posthumously.



Biography courtesy of Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald

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By F. Scott Fitzgerald

Name: _____

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

Describe briefly what you know about the Roaring 20s (1920s).



Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

1. Resemblance
2. Phenomenon
3. Dissimilarity
4. Supercilious
5. Reciprocal
6. Extemporize
7. Peremptory
8. Persistent
9. Fractious
10. Distinguished

-
- A. Insisting on immediate attention or obedience.
 - B. A way in which two or more things are not alike.
 - C. Dignified and noble in appearance or manner.
 - D. Given, felt, or done in return.
 - E. A way in which two or more things are alike.
 - F. Irritable and quarrelsome.
 - G. Continuing firmly in an opinion or action.
 - H. A remarkable or unusual person or event.
 - I. Compose music or speech without preparation.
 - J. Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others.

Questions



1. Describe the **setting** of the story as Chapter One begins.

2. Which of the following three narratives is used in our novel, *The Great Gatsby*? Be sure to give a reason for your choice.

First Person

Second Person

Third Person

3. What advice did Nick's father give him at the beginning of Chapter One?

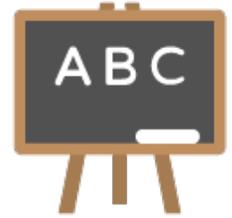
4. How do you think it feels for Nick to move to a new city and start a new career?

5. In Chapter One we learn that Tom has a rather discriminatory outlook on how he views the different races in the world. Do you think a person's upbringing is what shapes his or her views on topics such as race and equality? Be sure to defend your answer.

Language Activities



A. There are many writers that enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device is where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: “grouching, grouching, grumbling, griping about something or other.”



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sights of a party.	
The sounds of music.	
One from your own imagination	

B. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. The following is an example taken from Chapter One: “I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities, and they stood on my shelf in red and gold like new money from the mint, promising to unfold the shining secrets that only Midas and Morgan and Maecenas knew.”



What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent two of your own **similes** comparing two different things from your own imagination:

a)

b)

C. Homonyms

Homonyms are words which sound the same but have different meanings. An example is **billed** and **build**. These chapters feature words which are examples of homonyms. In the chart below, create sentences which show the meaning of each set of homonyms.

Example 1

Homonyms	Sentence
1. Incite	
2. Insight	

Example 2

Homonyms	Sentence
1. Patience	
2. Patients	

Example 3

Homonyms	Sentence
1. Sordid	
2. Sorted	

D. Copy out any three or four sentences from this section in the novel underlining the **nouns** and circling the **verbs**.

Extension Activity

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in Chapter One. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.



1	2
3	4
5	6