

Analysis of "great gatsby"

[Literature](#), [American Literature](#)



F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the narrator, Nick Carraway, tells the story of his infamous neighbor, Gatsby, who threw nightly extravagant parties in attempt to attract his lover. The only flaw in that mindset was that the woman, Daisy, was married. He desperately overcame obstacles to win her heart back but failed at last. Nostalgia is depicted as dangerous because if you focus on the past you cannot live in the present, as Gatsby did.

The novel centers around the tensions between Gatsby and Daisy. The main reason why he decided to situate himself on West Egg was because he could oversee her house on East Egg. He was so blinded by love to a point that he would trade his life in to catch a glimpse of her, even if it were just for a moment. He firmly believed that the past could be recreated, and everything would be 'normal' again despite all those years apart. He transformed himself into someone worth her status, to show her how far he had come. However, he wanted their relationship to remain exactly same and pick it up from where they left off. His theory of her waiting and closing herself off from love until his reappearance was a foolish fantasy. He knew she had a new family without him, but he refused to believe it. He chased a dream that ultimately led to his downfall. After years of living across on the other side from Daisy, Gatsby finally found a person who was in direct contact with her—Jordan Baker. At Nick's first party, he requested to 'speak to her alone' (50). The long-awaited moment arrived, which was his first step in attempting to contact Daisy. Soon after, he became anxious, obsessed even.

In Chapter 4, it is mentioned that he once "half expected her to wander into one of his parties" (79). He thought she would show up at his doorstep

and leap into his open arms. The image shattered, she never appeared, but he never stopped trying. Further down in the passage, Gatsby had indirectly asked Nick to invite Daisy to his house so Gatsby could pop over. Gatsby expected the meeting to be magical, as if fireworks were exploding among them. He pictured their reunion millions of times and even though the beginning seemed awkward, they made up and loved each other again. Gatsby almost got what he wished for. Nevertheless, the situation did not turn out as he had hoped. In fact, he ruined all his chances with his 'goddess' because of one stupid mistake.

In Chapter 7, Gatsby urged Daisy to proclaim her indifference for her husband. He wanted Daisy to say that she "never loved him", which caused a huge conflict. He desired Daisy all to himself and became too controlling. The thought of Daisy loving another man made him delusional and he firmly believed that every single part of her was his. Reliving the past immobilized his ability to consider the present that Daisy could only give him half her heart. But he wanted more. Following the accident, he remained outside the Buchanan's house until long after midnight to keep watch for her. He did nothing and just stood there, showing that he was insignificant to her already. Wistfulness did not only occur to Gatsby, but to Daisy as well. Her longing of the past nearly destroyed her marriage with Tom Buchanan, though his infidelity also had its own damages. When Gatsby brought Daisy and Nick to his room, she cried drastically when she touched his shirts. All the memories suddenly started to pour in and she remembered all their joyous times together.

The man she loved was right in front of her and there was nothing she could do about it. Both sides wished they could relive everything, settle down together and love each other for the rest of their lives. But it was virtually impossible. They had their own lives that molded them into completely different persons and forcing out of the mold broke them apart. Society already had a plan for them, and they were powerless against it.

Their nostalgia was unable to help the two deal with reality—their greatest enemy that resulted in the pitiful tragedy. The setting also implied the strong connection to the past. Two places that exemplify the reformation of older days were Gatsby's chateau and Tom's mistress, Myrtle's New York Apartment. They both include early architectural styles that do not quite fit within the age of the roaring twenties. The premodern design suggests the holding onto what already happened, not being able to move forward. This resonates with the theme of the book that the past was always with you.

Gatsby's mansion was constructed to replicate French estates. It towered over Nick's comparatively modest house like a giraffe. He cleverly covered up the old design by hosting countless contemporary parties so people would not realize how he copied others. Instead, all the guests did was marvel at the grandeur of his marvelous residence. Gatsby was inspired by his ancestor's sophisticated archetypes that he decided to rip it off them. With even the place he resided in having some sort of influence to the past, it adds to the impression that he was an outdated man who dwelled on reminiscences. Myrtle's New York apartment was her home away from home. She spent her time there with Tom scandalously, and yet having no shame. Based on her status, she did not deserve any of New York, because her

husband was an ordinary man from the Valley of Ashes. However, kindling romance with Tom allowed her to step outside her comfort zone,. she She pretended to be someone she was not, someone who was far beyond what she was. Fitzgerald slyly included4Leunghints of history in her apartment as well. Except for a picture of her mother hanging on the wall, the rest of the decoration included furniture sprawled all around.

They took up a vast amount of space in her tiny apartment. The chairs were tapestried with French women in ' the gardens ofVersailles' (29). Moving down the social ladder, from Gatsby to Myrtle, they all longed for the past. It is shown from their styles that have not seemed to change from whoever preceded them. Perhaps because of happier memories or because the present was too hard to endure, they'd rather focus their attention on the days before. When living in the present, one should enjoy the moments while it lasts. Dwelling on the past like many of the characters in The Great Gatsby would not benefit anyone because all it does is harm, making the present unlivable.