

THE GREAT GATSBY READING GUIDE

CH. 7-9

I will be randomly collecting and/or checking your progress--be prepared to show your answers to me or turn it in on any given day. Also be prepared to orally answer/discuss any of these questions. Keep up with the questions! *Please note – if you read ahead, DO NOT give away any key plot points!*

Chapter 7

1. Why does Gatsby no longer have parties?
2. What is the weather like throughout chapter 7? Why/how does this affect the moods/actions of the characters?
3. How does Gatsby react when he meets Daisy and Tom's daughter?
4. Do you think Daisy is a good mother? Why or why not?
5. When does Tom realize that something is going on between Daisy and Gatsby?
6. Compare the reactions of Tom Buchanan and George Wilson to the knowledge that their wives are having affairs.
7. What does Daisy mean when she says to Gatsby, "Oh, you want too much?" Why?
8. Identify Walter Chase. What does Gatsby's association with Chase reveal about his character?
9. Who kills Myrtle Wilson? Explain the events surrounding her death.
10. Why is Gatsby waiting outside Daisy and Tom's house? Why is this pathetic?
11. Re-read the passage which describes Nick looking into the Buchanan's kitchen window. How does Nick interpret this scene? What do you think is going on?
12. Who rides in which cars on their way into the city and on the way out of the city?



Chapter 8

1. How is the atmosphere of Gatsby's house different at this point in the story? Why?
2. What further details of the romance between Daisy and Gatsby are revealed in this chapter? (Why was Gatsby so taken with Daisy? How did he deceive her? Why did Daisy marry Tom? What else do you find out?)
3. What compliment does Nick pay Gatsby? Do you agree? Explain.
4. How is the Eckleberg billboard again seen as a parody of God in this chapter?

Chapter 9

1. Why, after Gatsby's death, does Nick decide to "come back home" to the Middle West?
2. Why do Gatsby's "friends" not attend his funeral?
3. Describe Gatsby's father. What is the significance of the book, *Hopalong Cassidy*, that he shows to Nick?
4. What is Nick's assessment of Tom and Daisy? (What does he think of them now?)
5. How did George find out that Gatsby owned the "death car?" What does George do?
6. Explain the ending of the novel: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." (What comments is Nick making about us all?)
7. How is it appropriate that the novel opens in spring and ends in fall?
8. Are there any admirable characters in this novel? Who are they?
9. Summarize the meaning of the novel in two to three sentences. (Explain what Fitzgerald is trying to say to his readers.)
10. What symbols are present in this novel? What does each of them represent? (list and analyze at least 3)