

Fourth Grade / Novel

Instructor. Fanan A.Al Kader

The great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

Lecture 6 /

Discussions and explanations of the most important issues in the novel

"They 're such beautiful shirts ,she sobbed ,her voice muffled in the thick folds .It makes me sad because I 've never seen such –such beautiful shirts before."

Gatsby takes out a pile of shirts and throws them in the air , The shirts keep coming and Gatsby throws them in the air ,shirts of every color , every style as a reference to his wealth, Daisy weeps with tears ,she isn't weeping for a lost love rather she is weeping at the overt display of wealth she sees before her.

"You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock"

the trio attempts to move down to the waterfront they are held up by the rain,

giving Gatsby the When opportunity to make a telling statement. He informs

Daisy, who clearly has no idea, that her house is right across the Sound from where they are standing. He then continues, informing her "You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock." Gatsby's admission of this secret is lost neither on Nick nor on Gatsby himself (according to Nick). Daisy, however, remains oblivious to its meaning. She is unable to grasp that by Gatsby telling her this, he has shared one of his most sanctified rituals. Prior to that day, the green light (representing many things: hope, youth, forward momentum, money) represented a dream to him and by reaching out to it, he was bringing himself closer to his love. Now that she was standing beside him, her arm in his, the light will no longer hold the same significance. His dream, the goal for which he patterned most of his adult life on, must now change.

"No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man can store up in his ghostly heart."

This passage introduces the heart of the matter ;: Gatsby's dream of Daisy. Through Nick, Gatsby is brought face-to-face with the fulfillment of a dream that he has pursued relentlessly for the past five years of his life. Everything he has done has been, in some sense, tied to his pursuit of Daisy. In a sense, Daisy's and Gatsby's encounter marks the book's high point — the dream is realized. What happens after a dream is fulfilled? Unlike other novels in which characters work to overcome adversity only to have their dreams realized at the end of the book and live happily ever after (or so the implication goes), Gatsby has his dream

fulfilled early, suggesting to astute readers that this won't be the typical rags-to-riches story. The second half of the book describes what happens when one chases, then obtains, one's dream. The end need not be "happily ever after."

The chapter opens as Nick returns home, only to find Gatsby's house "lit from tower to cellar," with no party in sight, only Gatsby "glancing into some of the rooms." In an attempt to calm Gatsby's apparent restlessness, Nick tells him he will phone Daisy and invite her to tea. Gatsby, still trying to play it cool, casually remarks "Oh, that's all right." Nick, who now knows a great deal more about how Gatsby functions (and the fact he has spent the last five years of his life chasing a dream), insists on pinning Gatsby down to a date. Gatsby, trying to show his appreciation, suggests he line Nick up with some of his business contacts in order to "pick up a nice bit of money" on the side. Of course, Gatsby is referring to his underworld connections, but what is perhaps so striking about Gatsby's gesture is the apparent tactlessness of it all. Despite his great wealth, his generosity takes curious and non-traditional forms showing just how far out of touch he really is with the "old money" world into which he wishes entrée.

On the day of the appointed visit, Gatsby arrives an hour in advance, giving us our first glimpse of his vulnerability. Wanting to make sure every detail of his meeting is perfect (meaning it measures up to his dream) Gatsby has Nick's grass cut and has "a greenhouse" of flowers delivered prior to Daisy's arrival. Gatsby dresses for the event in a "white flannel suit, silver shirt, a gold-colored tie." His clothes, like his parties, his house, and his car, are an overt reminder of his newly earned wealth. It is as if he wants to make sure

Daisy does not miss the fact that he now has that one thing that eluded him before: money.

"Can't repeat the past ? he cried incredulously ."why of course you can ?"

This line is Gatsby's famous response to Nick when Nick tells him , "you can't repeat the past." .It underlines Gatsby's unrealistic desire of recreating the past exactly as it was to attain a perfect future .He not only wants to present to be like the time when he and Daisy were together but also wants to erase the last five years in which they weren't .In another scene in the novel it is not enough for Gatsby for Daisy to say that she loves him but he wants her also say that she never loved Tom. The impossibility of Gatsby's dream to be realized entirely is one of the most important aspects of the novel through which Fitzgerald hints at the impossibility of attaining the American Dream.