

## **Fourth Grade / Novel**

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**The great Gatsby ( F. Scott Fitzgerald)**

### Lecture 9

#### **The American dream in The Great Gatsby**

The American dream originated in the early days of the American dream settlement ,with

The mostly poor immigrants searching for opportunities.

The Declaration of Independence states that " all men are created equal and that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights ,among which are life ,liberty and pursuit of happiness."

In the Great Gatsby ,The American Dream plays a big role ,in the novel ,you can see what happened to it during the 1920s.The values totally changed ,instead of striving for equality .they just want to get as rich as they could get. So it is not surprising that the new kind of "American Dream" fails several times which the writer describes in his book.

He shows that people are not treated equally and that social discrimination still exists, which is described in the scene where Tom and Wilson talk to each other in chapter two.

Most of the people appearing in The Great Gatsby are full of hope ,especially Gatsby who is hoping to win Daisy back. He has an "extraordinary gift of hope"

And he sacrifices himself to fulfill his dream .He struggles to get into the upper class. In the end his dream fails completely.

Nick Carrway is a pragmatic man ,who comes from the Middle – West ,and does not share the American Dream. He wants to be himself ,as he sees himself tolerant ,objective and reliable. Mainly his dream consists of mental values , of a pursuit of honesty, He says of himself "I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known."

Daisy lives her American Dream with Tom as her husband ,who has a lot of money ,she doesn't have any kind of aims in her life .Having that comfortable life around her ,she lives for the moment and doesn't think about the next one.

Tom was born into his American Dream .He never had a work in his life ,and got all his money from his parents ,since is everything is perfect for his narrow –minded eyes ,he doesn't want any changes ,losing Daisy would be a major change in his dream ,because he sees her as one of his possessions.

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## **How does F. Scott Fitzgerald portray the American Dream in the Great Gatsby through his use of symbolism and other literary devices..**

Fitzgerald manages to define praise ,and condemn what is known as the American Dream in his novel ,The Great Gatsby , the first literary device he uses to illustrate the American Dream is motif .

One motif is geography as represented by East and West Egg ,West Egg is where the "new rich" live , those who have made a

lot of money by being criminals .In the years after World War 1 ended.

These people are portrayed as being rather gaudy (like Gatsby 's pink suit and his car Rolls Royce) his white mansion. It is as if they do not quite know what to do with their money ,and therefore try to "copy "what they perceive to be the possessions and manners of the rich.

This is clear condemnation of the excessive materialism which was the result of pursuing the American Dream .

On the other hand ,East Egg is filled with those who have always had money while they do look like they have class ,dignity ,and manners ( things lacking in West Egg),they are no better in their excesses than their newly rich neighbors.

Tom and Daisy both have affairs ,Jordan Baker is a cheat ,Daisy kills a woman and lets someone else take the blame ,the clear message seems to be that the result of the American Dream – wealth- causes destruction.

The other symbol is the green light at the end of Daisy's dock in East Egg ( It's Gatsby's inspiration and his aspiration –When he was poor ,Daisy couldn't marry him .So he worked hard and achieved the epitome of the American Dream.

He recreated himself from virtually nothing ,he made a lot of money (through illegal things though no one seems to care much about that ).

