

## **Fourth Grade / Novel**

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

### **Lecture 15 /Themes**

#### **The American Dream**

The [American Dream](#) refers to a shared set of ideals that guide the spirit of the United States. These shared ideals include a notion of freedom that ensures all Americans the possibility of upward social mobility, as long as they work for it. Every character in *The Great Gatsby* draws inspiration from the American Dream's promise of wealth and prosperity. At the same time, the novel itself critiques the notion of the American Dream. Readers may end the novel wondering if the American Dream is actually attainable at all. Gatsby suffers the most from the promise of social mobility inherent to the American Dream. He spends his life believing that if he makes enough money and acquires enough possessions, he can transcend his lower-class birth and become equal to Daisy and Tom. However, even though Gatsby succeeds in acquiring wealth, he is never accepted by the upper class. Gatsby's failure to attain the American Dream suggests the Dream is both an unattainable and unwise goal.

#### **Old Money VS. New Money**

An important element of the Great Gatsby is the conflict between "old Money "and "New Money, Gatsby ,the self-man ,represents the new rich ,whereas the Buchanan represent the generational wealth.

Although both groups are in the same class ,and equally wealthy ,the differences comes subtle social statues issues.

People who are "New Money "are seen by "Old Money " as gaudy ,ostentatious ,and overly extravagant ,the wild parties that Gatsby throws are indicative of this.

On the other hand , "Old Money "folks think of themselves as elegant and refined.

The American Dream is the main idea of Fitzgerald novel ,is based on New Money .

The reality of this social mobility ,however , is rather bleak ,Gatsby who gained his wealth through illegal means is never fully accepted by people like Buchanan, the separation and differences of West Egg (the new money ),where Nick and Gatsby live and East Egg (the location of old aristocracy and gentry families )are symbolic of this divide.