**Knowing…**

**The Great Gatsby**

Because this booklet contains both activities and answers it is not advised that it is given out in its entirety to students.

Teachers should select which sections are given out to students and when.

It is not intended that these activities are done all at the same time, but they should be used to revisit the text throughout the course. They may be particularly useful once the text has been taught to keep it fresh and current in the minds of the students.

This pack contains –

* Sequencing of events
* A quiz on what happens when
* A quiz on the content of the text
* Some quotations to interrogate
* Suggestions of topics on which to collect quotations

Teachers can use these activities as a starting point and then amend or develop others in a similar format.

Alternatively, once students have completed these activities they could develop their own to ‘test’ the rest of the group.

**Student Activity Sheet**

***The Great Gatsby* - What happens when?**

**Write a brief summary of what happens in each chapter in the table below.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chapter 1 |  |
| Chapter 2 |  |
| Chapter 3 |  |
| Chapter 4 |  |
| Chapter 5 |  |
| Chapter 6 |  |
| Chapter 7 |  |
| Chapter 8 |  |
| Chapter 9 |  |

**Notes for Self or Peer Marking**

**Alternatively, cut out the descriptions (minus the chapter references), mix up and re-order correctly.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chapter 1 | Nick introduces himself as the narrator of a story that took place two years previously. He relates how he moved to Long Island and then gives an account of his first dinner at the Buchanans where he meets Jordan Baker. Dinner is interrupted by a phone call from Tom’s mistress. Nick has yet to meet his elusive and mysterious neighbour. |
| Chapter 2 | Tom and Nick travel to town. Tom arranges to meet his mistress, Myrtle Wilson, who usually resides in the valley of ashes with her mechanic husband. There is a party at Tom’s apartment in New York and Nick gets drunk for the second time in his life (he claims). Tom hits Myrtle and breaks her nose when she repeatedly says Daisy’s name. |
| Chapter 3 | Nick, and the reader, finally meet Gatsby at one of his lavish parties. Gatsby asks to speak to Jordan in private – we presume to talk to her about Daisy and ask her to be an intermediary with Nick. Nick discovers that all of the books in Gatsby’s library are real – a fact which one of the other guests finds intriguing and amazing. Nick reveals a little more about his life and his relationship with Jordan Baker.  |
| Chapter 4 | Nick recounts more details of further parties at Gatsby’s mansion. Gatsby invites Nick to drive to New York and have lunch with him. En route Gatsby tells Nick about his life – he claims he is from a wealthy Midwest family in San Francisco (NB – not in the Midwest); he was educated at Oxford; he was a major in WW1. Gatsby shows Nick a medal and a photograph of him at Oxford as proof. In New York they meet Wolfsheim, an unsavoury character linked to organised crime. Gatsby tells Nick that he has a favour to ask him but that Jordan will explain. Later Jordan relates the story of Gatsby and Daisy’s past relationship. Nick agrees to arrange a meeting.  |
| Chapter 5 | Nick invites Daisy to tea at his house and instructs her to come alone. Gatsby is incredibly nervous and fusses over the preparations, sending a gardener to cut Nick’s lawn and also sending over many flowers from his greenhouses. He almost loses his nerve and the meeting is awkward at first but when Nick returns to the room, having given the pair some time alone, it is to find them both transformed with emotion. Gatsby shows Daisy and Nick around his house, showcasing for her his immense wealth which impresses her greatly. Nick reflects that Gatsby has worked for this for so long that maybe, having achieved it, his life is a little diminished. |
| Chapter 6 | Nick reports what he later discovered about Gatsby’s history and how he re-invented himself as a teenager once he hooked up with Dan Cody. Nick says he didn’t see or hear from Gatsby for several weeks while he, Nick, was mostly in New York spending time with Jordan. When he does go to visit Gatsby Tom and two companions call. All three avail themselves of Gatsby’s hospitality and the woman invites him to supper. Gatsby agrees but the offer is not genuine, which Gatsby does not realise, and the visitors leave before he can return with his car. Tom and Daisy then attend one of Gatsby’s parties but it is not a success in Gatsby’s eyes. It becomes clear that Gatsby wants nothing less than to erase the last five years and start again with Daisy exactly where they left off. Nick tells him you can’t repeat the past but he is adamant that you can. |
| Chapter 7 | Daisy is visiting Gatsby regularly and to avoid gossip he has fired all his servants and replaced them with some rude, thuggish associates of Wolfsheim. Nick, Gatsby and Jordan go to lunch at the Buchanans. It is very hot and after lunch there is a plan to go to town. Tom realises with horror that Daisy and Gatsby are involved with each other. Tom drives Gatsby’s yellow car to town, stopping at Wilson’s garage on the way. Myrtle sees Jordan in the car and assumes she is Daisy. At the Plaza in New York there is a showdown between Tom and Gatsby. Daisy admits she loves Gatsby but cannot say she has never loved Tom. For a moment it looks as if Daisy will go through with leaving her husband but then she loses her nerve. Gatsby and Daisy return in his car and fatally knock down Myrtle, who runs out in front of the car. Hearing a description of the car, Tom is convinced that Gatsby has killed Myrtle. Gatsby reveals to Nick that actually Daisy was driving but that he will cover for her. Daisy goes home to Tom and Gatsby waits outside their house all night in case she needs him. |
| Chapter 8 | Gatsby holds on to the dream of being with Daisy even though she has not reached out to him at all. He tells Nick a little of their past relationship – how he was poor and went off to war and that when he came back for Daisy she was married. Gatsby goes to swim in the pool and Nick goes off to work. Wilson, convinced that Gatsby killed his wife, shoots him in the pool and then kills himself. Nick finds Gatsby’s body in the pool and the gardener finds Wilson’s. |
| Chapter 9 | Gatsby’s death causes much media interest. Nick calls Daisy within half an hour of finding Gatsby’s body but she and Tom have gone away and left no forwarding address. Nick takes charge of Gatsby’s funeral and is horrified and angry that so few people attend. Wolfsheim refuses to get involved, as does Klipspringer, who was virtually a boarder at Gatsby’s mansion. Gatsby’s father arrives and tells Nick he is proud of his son and his achievements. Nick breaks off his relationship with Jordan and makes plans to move back to the West. Before he leaves New York Nick bumps into Tom Buchanan. It is revealed that Tom told Wilson it was Gatsby’s car and where to find him. Nick does not reveal that it was actually Daisy who was driving. As Gatsby’s house lies empty Nick leaves Long Island forever. |

**Location, Location, Location**

**Answer the following questions about what happens where in *The Great Gatsby*, andthen make up a similar quiz to test others in your group.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Although we hear about Gatsby from the start of the book, in which chapter do we first meet him? |  |
| Where do the Buchanans live? |  |
| Where does Gatsby claim he was educated? |  |
| In which chapter is the fateful showdown at the Plaza in New York? |  |
| In which town does Gatsby first meet and woo Daisy? |  |
| Where does Nick originate from? |  |
| Where is Gatsby’s house in relation to Tom and Daisy’s? |  |
| In which chapter does Gatsby reunite with Daisy at Nick’s house? |  |
| When Klipspringer calls in chapter 9 Nick is pleased as he thinks Klipspringer, a “friend”, will attend Gatsby’s funeral. Where does he actually say he is going to be? |  |
| In chapter 9 where does Gatsby’s father travel from to attend his son’s funeral? |  |
| Which part of the Midwest does Gatsby tell Nick he comes from? |  |
| Where is Wilson’s garage located? |  |
| In which chapter does Tom break Myrtle’s nose? |  |
| Where are the bodies of Gatsby and Wilson found? |  |
| Where does Nick go at the end of the novel? |  |

**Peer or Self Mark**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Although we hear about Gatsby from the start of the book, in which chapter do we first meet him? | Chapter 3 |
| Where do the Buchanans live? | East Egg |
| Where does Gatsby claim he was educated? | Oxford |
| In which chapter is the fateful showdown at the Plaza in New York? | Chapter 7 |
| In which town does Gatsby first meet and woo Daisy? | Louisville |
| Where does Nick originate from? | The Midwest of America |
| Where is Gatsby’s house in relation to Tom and Daisy’s? | It is across the bay |
| In which chapter does Gatsby reunite with Daisy at Nick’s house? | Chapter 5 |
| When Klipspringer calls in chapter 9 Nick is pleased as he thinks Klipspringer, a “friend”, will attend Gatsby’s funeral. Where does he actually say he is going to be? | On a picnic with some friends in Greenwich |
| In chapter 9 where does Gatsby’s father travel from to attend his son’s funeral? | A town in Minnesota |
| Which part of the Midwest does Gatsby tell Nick he comes from? | San Francisco (notably, not in the Midwest) |
| Where is Wilson’s garage located? | In the “valley of ashes” between Long Island and New York |
| In which chapter does Tom break Myrtle’s nose? | Chapter 2 |
| Where are the bodies of Gatsby and Wilson found? | Gatsby’s is found in the pool. Wilson’s is nearby in the grass |
| Where does Nick go at the end of the novel? | He returns home |

**How well do you know *The Great Gatsby*?**

**Test your knowledge of the novel by answering the following questions, and then make up a similar quiz yourself to test others in your group.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What cowardly act does Nick reveal his great uncle committed in 1851? |  |
| What colour dresses are Jordan and Daisy wearing in chapter 1?  |  |
| What is written in the front of the book Gatsby’s father shows Nick? |  |
| Why does Nick say he has moved to Long Island? |  |
| What household item does Gatsby almost break at the tea party that reunites him with Daisy? |  |
| When does the action of the novel take place? |  |
| Why does Tom break Myrtle’s nose? |  |
| The green light at the end of Daisy’s dock is a focal point for Gatsby’s intense yearning for her. What does Nick speculate his attitude to the green light might be once he has reconnected with her? |  |
| What watches over the inhabitants of the valley of ashes? |  |
| What happens when Gatsby is stopped for speeding on his way to New York? |  |
| Why is the guest with the owl-eyed spectacles so amazed by Gatsby’s library? |  |
| What is the message of the book that Tom is so enthusiastic about in chapter 1? |  |
| What does Nick say floated in the wake of Gatsby’s dreams? |  |
| What are the rumours we hear about Gatsby before we meet him? |  |
| What objects does Gatsby show Nick as evidence that his account of his life is genuine? |  |
| What is distinctive about Wolfsheim’s cuff buttons (cuff links) when Nick and Gatsby meet him in New York? |  |
| What are we told was Gatsby’s attitude to his parents when he was young? |  |
| Approximately what percentage of the novel is made up of Gatsby’s own words? |  |
| For how long did Gatsby work for Dan Cody? |  |
| What interrupts dinner the first time Nick visits Tom and Daisy in chapter 1? |  |
| What does Gatsby throw around his bedroom when Daisy first visits his house? |  |
| When she is told she has had a baby girl what does Daisy say she hoped for her daughter? |  |
| What is Gatsby’s legal name? |  |
| What aspect of Daisy does Nick say held Gatsby the most because it “couldn’t be over-dreamed”? |  |
| How many years is it since Daisy and Gatsby last met? |  |
| What did Gatsby inherit from Cody? |  |
| How does Nick know the Buchanans? |  |
| What does Wilson think Myrtle is doing when she goes up to town to be with Tom? |  |
| What does Gatsby do when Daisy begins to regularly visit him at his house? |  |
| Why does Nick leave Long Island and go back home after Gatsby’s death? |  |
| What colour are Gatsby and Tom’s cars? |  |
| When Nick tells Gatsby “you can’t repeat the past” what is his reaction? |  |
| Who does Nick describe as having a “hard mouth and a supercilious manner”, “two shining arrogant eyes” and “a cruel body”? |  |
| What is the difference between West and East Egg? |  |
| Who kills Myrtle? |  |
| Where does the majority of the action take place in chapter 2?  |  |
| Who attends Gatsby’s funeral? |  |

**Peer or Self Mark**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What cowardly act does Nick reveal his great uncle committed in 1851? | He sent a substitute to the Civil War. |
| What colour dresses are Jordan and Daisy wearing in chapter 1?  | White. |
| What is written in the front of the book Gatsby’s father shows Nick? | A schedule for self-improvement. |
| Why does Nick say he has moved to Long Island? | He came back restless from the Great War. Home felt like “the ragged edge of the universe” and so he decided to move East to learn the bond business. |
| What household item does Gatsby almost break at the tea party that reunites him with Daisy? | A clock – a symbol of the time that he is so certain he can control. |
| When does the action of the novel take place? | The summer of 1922. |
| Why does Tom break Myrtle’s nose? | She keeps repeating Daisy’s name.  |
| The green light at the end of Daisy’s dock is a focal point for Gatsby’s intense yearning for her. What does Nick speculate his attitude to the green light might be once he has reconnected with her? | He wonders if it has lost its special, magical significance – “the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever”. |
| What watches over the inhabitants of the valley of ashes? | The eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg on an advertising billboard. |
| What happens when Gatsby is stopped for speeding on his way to New York? | Nothing. The policeman recognises him and apologises. Gatsby explains he is protected by the commissioner, for whom he once did a favour. |
| Why is the guest with the owl-eyed spectacles so amazed by Gatsby’s library? | The books in it are real. |
| What is the message of the book that Tom is so enthusiastic about in chapter 1? | That the white race is superior and must protect itself from other races. |
| What does Nick say floated in the wake of Gatsby’s dreams? | “foul dust” |
| What are the rumours we hear about Gatsby before we meet him? | He’s a nephew or a cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm, he killed a man once, he was a German spy during the war. |
| What objects does Gatsby show Nick as evidence that his account of his life is genuine? | A war medal and a photograph of him at Oxford. |
| What is distinctive about Wolfsheim’s cuff buttons (cuff links) when Nick and Gatsby meet him in New York? | They are made from human molars. |
| What are we told was Gatsby’s attitude to his parents when he was young? | He left home and effectively disowned them – “his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all”. However, we hear from his father that as an adult Gatsby was generous to him. |
| Approximately what percentage of the novel is made up of Gatsby’s own words? | Approximately 4% |
| For how long did Gatsby work for Dan Cody? | Five years. |
| What interrupts dinner the first time Nick visits Tom and Daisy in chapter 1? | Myrtle phones the house to speak to Tom. |
| What does Gatsby throw around his bedroom when Daisy first visits his house? | His shirts. |
| When she is told she has had a baby girl what does Daisy say she hoped for her daughter? | She hoped she would be a “beautiful little fool”. |
| What is Gatsby’s legal name? | James Gatz. |
| What aspect of Daisy does Nick say held Gatsby the most because it “couldn’t be over-dreamed”? | Her voice. |
| How many years is it since Daisy and Gatsby last met? | Almost five years – Gatsby says it was “five years next November”. |
| What did Gatsby inherit from Cody? | Nothing. He was left $25,000 but he never got it. |
| How does Nick know the Buchanans? | Daisy is his second cousin once removed and he knew Tom in college. |
| What does Wilson think Myrtle is doing when she goes up to town to be with Tom? | Visiting her sister. |
| What does Gatsby do when Daisy begins to regularly visit him at his house? | The parties stop, he fires all his servants and employs some rude ruffians who are associates of Wolfsheim. |
| Why does Nick leave Long Island and go back home after Gatsby’s death? | He says the “East was haunted” for him. |
| What colour are Gatsby and Tom’s cars? | Tom’s car is blue and Gatsby’s is yellow (think of the symbolism of those two colours throughout the novel). |
| When Nick tells Gatsby “you can’t repeat the past” what is his reaction? | “why of course you can” |
| Who does Nick describe as having a “hard mouth and a supercilious manner”, “two shining arrogant eyes” and “a cruel body”? | Tom. |
| What is the difference between West and East Egg? | East Egg is old, established money whereas West Egg is new money. |
| Who kills Myrtle? | Daisy. |
| Where does the majority of the action take place in chapter 2?  | Tom and Myrtle’s flat in New York. |
| Who attends Gatsby’s funeral? | Nick, his father, a few servants, the postman and the man with the owl spectacles. |

**Working with Quotations**

**Identify who or what these quotations refer to and explore them by answering some or all of the following questions as appropriate. There is guidance about where the quotations occur if more support is needed.**

1. Who says it? When? Why? What does it mean? What is its significance?
2. Who or what is it about? When does it occur? What does it demonstrate?
3. What is the situation with that character at that moment in the text?
4. Who else is present? What is the situation with them?
5. How could this quotation relate to what has gone before/what comes after in the text?
6. What key ideas/themes does this quotation illustrate or link to?
7. Does this quotation contradict or stand in contrast to anything else in the text?
8. What point about the text would you use this quotation to illustrate?
9. Which other quotation is similar to this or illustrates the same point? Which is opposite to it?
10. What else is there to say about the language that has been used?

**Question these Quotations**

|  |
| --- |
| “If he’d of lived, he’d of been a great man” |
| “I didn’t want you to think I was just some nobody” |
| “the solemn dumping ground” |
| “her voice is full of money” |
| “there was something gorgeous about him” |
| “they conducted themselves according to the rules of behaviour associated with an amusement park” |
| “so he waited, listening for a moment longer to the tuning fork that had been struck upon a star” |
| “his count of enchanted objects had diminished by one” |
| “she’s a nice girl, they oughn’t to let her run around the country this way” |
| “I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known” |
| “I don’t think he had ever really believed in its existence before” |
| “so we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight” |
| “He literally glowed; without a word or a gesture of exultation a new well-being radiated from him and filled the little room” |
| “standing alone on the marble steps and looking from one group to another” |
| “they were careless people” |
| “he had committed himself to the following of a grail” |
| “only the dead dream fought on as the afternoon slipped away” |
| “I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before” |
| “the colossal vitality of his illusion” |
| “They’re a rotten crowd. You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together”  |
| “Mr Nobody from Nowhere” |

**Location Support (if needed)**

|  |
| --- |
| “If he’d of lived, he’d of been a great man” Chapter 9 |
|  “I didn’t want you to think I was just some nobody” Chapter 4 |
| “the solemn dumping ground” Chapter 2 |
|  “her voice is full of money” Chapter 7 |
| “there was something gorgeous about him” Chapter 1 |
| “they conducted themselves according to the rules of behaviour associated with an amusement park” Chapter 3  |
| “so he waited, listening for a moment longer to the tuning fork that had been struck upon a star” Chapter 8 |
| “his count of enchanted objects had diminished by one” Chapter 5  |
| “she’s a nice girl, they oughn’t to let her run around the country this way” Chapter 1  |
| “I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known” Chapter 3  |
| “I don’t think he had ever really believed in its existence before” Chapter 7  |
| “so we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight” Chapter 7 |
| “He literally glowed; without a word or a gesture of exultation a new well-being radiated from him and filled the little room” Chapter 5 |
| “standing alone on the marble steps and looking from one group to another” Chapter 3  |
| “they were careless people” Chapter 9  |
| “he had committed himself to the following of a grail” Chapter 8 |
| “only the dead dream fought on as the afternoon slipped away” Chapter 7  |
| “I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before” Chapter 6  |
| “the colossal vitality of his illusion” Chapter 5  |
| “They’re a rotten crowd. You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together” Chapter 8  |
| “Mr Nobody from Nowhere” Chapter 7  |

**Supporting, Illustrating and Exploring Using Quotations**

* Take each of the following viewpoints in turn
* Brainstorm as many ideas as possible related to that topic
* Then collect as many quotations as possible that seem relevant and which might help to illustrate, explore or challenge it (preferably from memory)
* Decide on the five most useful quotations
* Then choose the three that you feel are most interesting and enable the most fruitful and detailed exploration
* Justify your selection either verbally or in written form and encourage others to challenge and question you on it

**Collect as many ideas and quotations as you can related to the following viewpoints about *The Great Gatsby*…**

1. Nick is right - Gatsby is indeed “gorgeous” and the rest of them are a “rotten crowd”.
2. There is a naivety and innocence about Gatsby that is incredibly moving. He is too gentle a creature for the world in which he lives.
3. None of the female characters are in any way admirable or even likeable.
4. Gatsby is such an elusive figure that the only thing a reader can be certain of is that Nick is clearly infatuated with him.
5. Cars and alcohol are, literally, the driving forces in the novel.
6. The tragedy of the novel is that Gatsby cannot see Daisy for what she really is; he wastes his life on an illusion.
7. Nick presents a completely romanticised version of Gatsby; he is, in fact, a criminal, a liar and a sentimental fool.
8. Tom Buchanan, not Jay Gatsby, is the figure that dominates the novel.
9. There is a nobility about Gatsby that none of the other characters achieve.
10. All of the characters are emotionally bankrupt, none of them behave in an honest and honourable way and none deserve our sympathy.

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