

The Great Gatsby: While-reading Tasks

1. The function of the weather and geography (Miro, Julian, Maxime)

Generally: When it is raining they are unhappy and when the sun is shining they are happy.

Meeting daisy and Jay: When Gatsby met Daisy, first it was raining this symbolizes the nervousness of Gatsby. Then they get well and the weather gets well as well and in the end Daisy realizes that she couldn't be together with Jay and it began to rain.

The weather is hot, heated. The discussion is also very heated.

Funereal: Night, moonlight, stormy, rainy, black, wet, Westegg, Eastegg (dream) difference

2. Symbols (Simon, Oliver)

Eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg:

- P.26 l.12: The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic – their retinas are one yard high.
- Symbol of god in the eyes of George

The valley of ashes:

- P.26 l.3: This is a valley of ashes – a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens, where ashes take the forms of houses and chimney and rising smoke and finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air.

The green light:

- P.25 l.17: Involuntarily I glanced seaward – and distinguished nothing except a single green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock.
- Dutch Sailors, Green Light representing America. Hope for the migrants

Moonlight:

- P.128 l.14: So I walked away and left him standing there in the moonlight – watching over nothing.

Rain:

- Represents sadness

Gatsby's mansion:

- Represents Gatsby's achievements
- Vanishes with Gatsby

3. Why is Gatsby “The Great Gatsby”? (Kire, Felix)

- a. He had a great heart → He did all these criminal activities to achieve his Target (Daisy) but at the end he died even though he was guilty for the accident with Myrtle. Daisy mad this accident. → He is a victim of Tom and Daisy → “You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together.” (p.145 l.13)
- b. “...he found that he had committed himself to the following of a grail.” (p.141 l.10)

Why isn't he the Great Gatsby?

- c. his name is not Gatsby → it is just his pseudonym for his wealthy façade
- d. he achieved his dream with crime
- e. only few people attended his funeral → they didn't respect because he is a newly rich guy

4. The superficiality & hollowness of the upper class (Nikita, Isabel)

"I had no sight into Daisy's heart but I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game." (p 10, l. 23-25)

"It's up to us who are the dominant race to watch out or these other races will have control of things." (p. 17f, l.28/ 1-2)

"The fact that he had one [mistress] was insisted upon wherever he was known. His acquaintances resented the fact that he turned up in popular restaurants with her and, leaving her at a table, sauntered about chatting with whomsoever he knew." (p.27, l. 8-11)

"My dear [...] most of these fellas will cheat you every time. All they think of is money" (p. 33, l.24-25)

""[...] They're real." "The books?" He nodded. [...] "What realism! Knew when to stop too – didn't cut the pages. But what do you want?"" (p. 47, l.16-18, l. 26-27)

p.56: Wheel's off, driver doesn't care

p. 81, l.5: "I want to get the grass cut" -> good impression, superficiality

p. 113, l. 5 "That's because your mother wanted to show you off"

p. 116: "Her [Daisy] voice is full of money" -> money makes her interesting

p.118: Tom shows Gatsby's car to Wilson, pretends that it's his car

p. 114: "What'll we do with ourselves this afternoon [...] and the day after that, and the next thirty years?" -> have nothing to do go to town, bored

p. 158: "What I called up about was a pair of shoes I left there. I wonder if it'd be too much trouble to have the butler send them on." -> shoes more important than

Gatsby, doesn't really care about him even though he kind of lived in Gatsby's house
p.167: "but I saw what he had done was, to him, entirely justified. It was all very careless and confused. They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness"

p. 166: "I mean it was careless of me to make such a wrong guess. I thought you were rather an honest, straightforward person."

leave as soon as it gets tough

5. Gender roles (Lina, Livia, Eescha)

In this book it is often criticized that the women choose money over love (Tom, Daisy and Gatsby. The men on the other hand are able to have affairs and be unfaithful but still do not lose their husbands. (Tom and Daisy) It much worse if a woman is unfaithful than a man.

"I'm p-paralyzed with happiness." She laughed again, as if she said something very witty, and held my hand for a moment, [...]" p. 13. L.17

"And I hope she'll be a fool, that's the best thing a girl can be in this world a beautiful little fool." (p. 21, l.26f)

"I want to meet my girl." (p.27, l.16f)

"[...] and a great number of single girls dancing individualistically [...]" p. 48, l. 18

At this time women can be single and do not need a man.

"The reluctance to go home was not confined to wayward men." P. 53, l. 18

"I've got my wife locked in up there," explained Wilson calmly. P.130 l.14

"...the holocaust was complete." P. 152, l. 15 f

George wanted to "protect" his wife (old-fashioned way) and killed Gatsby out of revenge. Important to know is that George also was paralysed of anger so his actions are questionable.

6. Society and class (Nora, Luana, Alena)

2. "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." (p. 5)
3. My family have been prominent, well-to-do people in this middle-western city for three generations. (p. 6)d
4. But she offended her-and inarguably, because it wasn't a gesture but an emotion. She was appalled by West Egg, this unprecedented "place"... (p. 104)
5. Description of all the quests of Gatsby's party (p. 96-98)
6. "Her voice is full of money," he said suddenly. That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full of money... (p. 116)
7. An Oxford man! He was incredulous. "Like hell he is! He wears a pink suit."
8. Nevertheless he's an Oxford man."
9. "Oxford, New Mexico," snorted Tom contemptuously, "or something like that." (p.117)
10. "But the way, Mr. Gatsby, I understand you're an Oxford man."
11. "Not exactly."
12. "Oh, yes, I understand you went to Oxford."
13. "Yes-I went there." (p. 123)
14. However glorious might be his future as Jay Gatsby, he was at present a penniless young man without a past, and at any moment the invisible cloak of his uniform might slip from his shoulders. (p. 140)
15. She vanished into her rich house, into her rich, full life, leaving Gatsby-nothing. (p.141)
16. I called up Daisy half an hour after we found him, called her instinctively and without hesitation. But she and Tom had gone away early that afternoon, and taken baggage with them.
17. "Left no address?"
18. "No."
19. "Say when they'd be back?"
20. "No."
21. "Any idea where they are? How I could reach them?"

22. "I don't know. Can't say." (p. 154)
23. p. 163-165
24. "Not satisfied": The state and mind of the main characters (We)

7. "Not satisfied" – The state and mind of the main characters (Dario, Jonas)

There are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and the tired.

Nick: disappointed by Jordan, Not satisfied because he is the only one who attends Gatsby's funeral, disappointed by the carelessness of Tom and Daisy, not satisfied because he wanted to live in the east and now goes back

Daisy: Not satisfied because he is between these two men, She wants the new love with Gatsby but she also wants to keep the old status, money from Tom

Tom: Lack of respect: Can't understand why the others don't respect his aristocratic blood, his reputation

Gatsby: Lack of respect from the others because in Tom's eyes he is just a big bootlegger and he could do whatever he wants without really becoming a part of that class and being respected by Tom.