The Great Gatsby Study Guide

The Great Gatsby, published in 1925, is widely considered to be F. Scott Fitzergerald's greatest novel. It is also considered a seminal work on the fallibility of the American dream. It focuses on a young man, Jay Gatsby, who, after falling in love with a woman from the social elite, makes a lot of money in an effort to win her love. She marries a man from her own social strata and he dies disillusioned with the concept of a self-made man. Fitzgerald seems to argue that the possibility of social mobility in America is an illusion, and that the social hierarchies of the "New World" are just as rigid as those of Europe.

The novel is also famous as a description of the "Jazz Age," a phrase which Fitzgerald himself coined. After the shock of moving from a policy of isolationism to involvement in World War I, America prospered in what are termed the "Roaring Twenties." The Eighteenth Amendment to the American Constitution, passed in 1919, prohibited the sale and consumption of alcohol in America "Prohibition" made millionaires out of bootleggers like Gatsby and owners of underground salons, called "speakeasies." Fitzgerald glamorizes the noveau riche of this period to a certain extent in his Jazz Age novel. He describes their beautiful clothing and lavish parties with great attention to detail and wonderful use of color. However, the author was uncomfortable with the excesses of the period, and his novel sounds many warning notes against excessive love of money and material success.

Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby was not a great success during his lifetime, but became a smash hit after his death, especially after World War II. It has since become a staple of the canon of American literature, and is taught at many high schools and universities across the country and the world. Four films, an opera, and a play have been made from the text.

The Great Gatsby Summary

While The Great Gatsby is a highly specific portrait of American society during the Roaring Twenties, its story is also one that has been told hundreds of times, and is perhaps as old as America itself: a man claws his way from rags to riches, only to find that his wealth cannot afford him the privileges enjoyed by those born into the upper class. The central character is Jay Gatsby, a wealthy New Yorker of indeterminate occupation. Gatsby is primarily known for the lavish parties he throws each weekend at his ostentatious Gothic mansion in West Egg. He is suspected of being involved in illegal bootlegging and other underworld activities.

The narrator, Nick Carraway, is Gatsby's neighbor in West Egg. Nick is a young man from a prominent Midwestern family. Educated at Yale, he has come to New York to enter the bond business. In some sense, the novel is Nick's memoir, his unique view of the events of the summer of 1922; as such, his impressions and observations necessarily color the narrative as a

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Reading the American Novel 1920-2010 James Phelan, 2013-04-02 This astute guide to the literary achievements of American novelists in the twentieth century places their work in its historical context and offers detailed analyses of landmark novels based on a clearly laid out set of tools for analyzing narrative form Includes a valuable overview of twentieth and early twenty first century American literary history Provides analyses of numerous core texts including The Great Gatsby Invisible Man The Sound and the Fury The Crying of Lot 49 and Freedom Relates these individual novels to the broader artistic movements of modernism and postmodernism Explains and applies key principles of rhetorical reading Includes numerous cross novel comparisons and contrasts Critical Theory Today Lois Tyson, 2014-10-10 This thoroughly updated third edition of Critical Theory Today offers an accessible introduction to contemporary critical theory providing in depth coverage of the most common approaches to literary analysis today including feminism psychoanalysis Marxism reader response theory New Criticism structuralism and semiotics deconstruction new historicism and cultural criticism lesbian gay and queer theory African American criticism and postcolonial criticism This new edition features a major expansion of the chapter on postcolonial criticism that includes topics such as Nordicism globalization and the end of postcolonial theory global tourism and global conservation an extended explanation of each theory using examples from everyday life popular culture and literary texts a list of specific questions critics ask about literary texts an interpretation of F Scott Fitzgerald s The Great Gatsby through the lens of each theory a list of questions for further practice to guide readers in applying each theory to different literary works updated and expanded bibliographies Both engaging and rigorous this is a how to book for undergraduate and graduate students new to critical theory and for college professors who want to broaden their repertoire of critical approaches to literature Catalog of Copyright Entries. Third Series Library of Congress. Copyright Office, 1971

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Scott A. Lukas, John Marmysz, 2010-06-22 This collection was inspired by the observation that film remakes offer us the opportunity to revisit important issues stories themes and topics in a manner that is especially relevant and meaningful to contemporary audiences Like mythic stories that are told again and again in differing ways film remakes present us with updated perspectives on timeless ideas While some remakes succeed and others fail aesthetically they always say something about the culture in which and for which they are produced Contributors explore the ways in which the fears of death loss of self and bodily violence have been expressed and then reinterpreted in such films and remakes as Invasion of the Body Snatchers Night of the Living Dead and Dawn of the Dead Films such as Rollerball The Ring The Grudge The Great Yokai Wars and Insomnia are discussed as well because of their ability to give voice to collective anxieties concerning cultural change nihilism and globalization While opening on a note that emphasizes the compulsion of filmmakers to revisit issues concerning fear and anxiety this collection ends by using films like Solaris King Kong Star Trek Doom and Van Helsing to suggest that repeated confrontation with these issues allows the opportunity for creative and positive transformation The Globetrotting Shopaholic Annessa Ann Babic, Tanfer Emin Tunc, 2009-10-02 The thrust of the literature on consumer space and society focuses on product labeling marketing techniques and approaches to branding as well as how mass consumer culture has reshaped individuals interaction with needs and desires Globetrotting Shopaholics departs from this current discourse by examining both consumption venues and the cultural political and social reasons why we consume It elucidates international trends in consumption politics and how they impact the creation of consumer spaces which in this book takes the form of numerous global loci including Canada's West Edmonton Mall Japanese theme parks shopping venues in the Philippines and expat boutiques in Budapest Using a wide range of epistemological frameworks including cultural ethnography historical analysis literary theory sociological dissection anthropological examination and philosophical ruminations this collection conveys how material objects and lifestyles are accumulated and represented internationally and how consumer goods and spaces define who we are as human beings **American Fiction Between the Wars** Harold Bloom, 2009 America in the 1920s and 30s saw the emergence of some of the best known writers of the modern generation John Steinbeck Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner The Bloomsbury Companion to Modernist Literature Ulrika Maude, Mark Nixon, 2018-11-01 In this book leading international scholars explore the major ideas and debates that have made the study of modernist literature one of the most vibrant areas of literary studies today The Bloomsbury Companion to Modernist Literature offers a comprehensive guide to current research in the field covering topics including The modernist everyday emotion myth geographies and language scepticism Modernist literature and the arts music the visual arts cinema and popular culture Textual and archival approaches manuscripts genetic criticism and modernist magazines Modernist literature and science sexology neurology psychology technology and the theory of relativity The geopolitics of modernism globalization politics and economics Resources keywords and an annotated bibliography Guide

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Spaces of Feeling Marta Figlerowicz,2017-12-15 Can other people notice our affects more easily than we do In Spaces of Feeling Marta Figlerowicz examines modernist novels and poems that treat this possibility as electrifying but also deeply disturbing Their characters and lyric speakers are undone Figlerowicz posits by the realization that they depend on others to

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Transversal Enterprises in the Drama of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries B. Reynolds, 2006-03-01 This study expands on Reynolds transversal poetics the theory methodology and aesthetics developed in response to the need for an approach that fosters agency creativity and conscientious scholarship and pedagogy It offers new readings of plays by amongst others Shakespeare Marlowe Middleton Webster and Greene

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