

The **GREAT GATSBY** DISCUSSION SET #1 (Chapters 1-3)

1. According to our narrator, Tom has always wanted Nick to like him. Why might someone like Tom Buchanan care if someone such as Nick Carraway liked him?
2. Which details stand out to you in the descriptions of Gatsby's parties? What impression of the parties does Fitzgerald create generally?
3. Why do you think "Owl Eyes" makes such a big deal over Jay Gatsby's personal library? (Hint: David Belasco was a celebrated theatrical producer and set designer.)
4. Nick notes that Gatsby's "elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd" and that Gatsby "was picking his words with care" in casual conversations. What does this imply?

5. After the birth of her daughter, Daisy says, "And I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." (20) What does she mean by this?
6. Review the section describing the car crash at the end of Jay Gatsby's epic party (54-55). Is this just meant to be humorous or is it more meaningful? Explain.
7. How does Fitzgerald make Gatsby seem both unremarkable and extraordinary?
8. What are your initial thoughts on Nick Carraway? Do you like him? Would you trust him?
