The Great Gatsby Study Guide Questions

Directions: On another sheet of paper answer the following questions. Write your answers in complete sentences. You are expected to have each chapter completed as it is assigned to be read, and you will get stamps for on-time credit.

Chapter One
1. How does Nick perceive himself (how does he describe himself)? What does he mean when he says “I'm inclined to reserve all judgment...” (Fitzgerald 5)?
2. Explain what the following quotes tell us about Daisy:
   a. “...Daisy's murmur was only to make people lean toward her...” (Fitzgerald 13)
   b. “I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool” (Fitzgerald 21).
3. Describe the difference between East Egg and West Egg.
4. What does the following quote tell us about Gatsby: “…he stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way and...he was trembling” (Fitzgerald 26)?
5. What example of wealth and materialism are in this chapter?

Chapter Two
1. Describe the Valley of Ashes and Wilson's Garage. What images and colors does Fitzgerald use? What emotions come through to the reader in his description?
2. What does the following quote tell us about Myrtle Wilson?
   “She was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her surplus flesh sensuously as some women can.”
3. How is Gatsby described by the people at the party? What impressions do we get about his personality?
4. How does the following quote reflect the theme of wealth and materialism in the novel?
   “With the influence of the dress her personality had also undergone a change. The intense vitality that had been so remarkable in the garage was converted into impressive hauteur.”
5. What do you think is symbolic about the “eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg? What could they represent?
6. What does Nick’s point of view about Tom, Myrtle, and the people at the party seem to be?

Chapter Three
1. What connection do you see between the preparations for Gatsby's party and the arrival of the guests?
2. Describe the events and the atmosphere of the party.
3. What makes Gatsby mysterious?
4. What does Nick find out about Jordan after he has spent some time with her?
5. What is happening to Nick’s reaction to Jordan Baker? What is their relationship?
6. Describe two incidents involving cars in this chapter. What does the characters’ attitude toward and treatment of cars tell us about them? What could cars represent?
Chapter Four
1. What do all the stories about the people who meet at Gatsby's parties have in common?
2. What does Gatsby's friendship with Meyer Wolfsheim imply about his own background?
3. What does Daisy symbolize to Gatsby? What does he gain if he wins her back?
4. What are your impressions of Gatsby at this point?
5. What are some objects or symbols of materialism and wealth in this chapter?

Chapter Five
1. What has the green light on Daisy's dock meant to Gatsby?
2. How does Daisy begin to fail Gatsby as his dream girl? (consider his dream of her vs. the reality of her)
3. What is Gatsby's behavior like in this chapter? What does it tell us about him?
4. What is Daisy's behavior like in this chapter? What does it tell us about her?
5. What is the weather like in this chapter? How does it reflect the emotions of Daisy and Gatsby?

Chapter Six
1. Why do you think Nick tells us the story of James Gatz now instead of earlier in the book?
2. How did the materialistic vision get its start in Gatsby? Who was Dan Cody?
3. What is Daisy's real response to the party, according to Nick?
4. What is Gatsby's view of the past? When Nick says that Gatsby "wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy," what do you think he means?
5. What does Gatsby want from Daisy?

Chapter Seven
1. Why is Gatsby so perturbed when he sees the Buchanan child?
2. Why does Gatsby insist that Daisy say she never loved Tom?
3. What is the true relationship between Daisy and Tom by the end of this chapter?
4. What do you think Gatsby means when he says that Daisy's voice is "full of money"?
5. At the end of the chapter, Gatsby is standing alone, looking out at Daisy's house. Compare this scene with the beginning of the novel when Nick sees Gatsby standing alone and reaching out toward Daisy's house. What has changed from then to now?
Chapter Eight
1. After everything that has happened, what is Gatsby’s attitude toward Daisy? What does this tell us about him?
2. After reading about Gatsby and Daisy’s past together, what impressions do you have of him now?
3. What is Nick’s attitude toward Gatsby when he says goodbye to him?
4. What do the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg symbolize to George Wilson? What is significant about this symbol?
5. Nick states that Gatsby “paid a high price for living too long with a single dream.” (Fitzgerald 169). Explain what you think this means.

Chapter Nine
1. What does Nick tell us about Gatsby’s state of mind before he is killed?
2. What do Gatsby’s notes in the Western novel tell us about him?
3. How does Nick characterize Tom and Daisy at the end of the book? What has each of them “smashed” during the course of the novel?
4. At the end of the book, Nick imagines what the continent must have been like when it was first seen by Dutch sailors. How does this contrast with the environment described in the novel?
5. What does the green light symbolize at the end of the novel?
6. How does this book show the destructive power of the American Dream?