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**УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗРАБОТКА ПО ДОМАШНЕМУ  
ЧТЕНИЮ**

Ф. С. Фитцджеральд «Великий Гэтсби»

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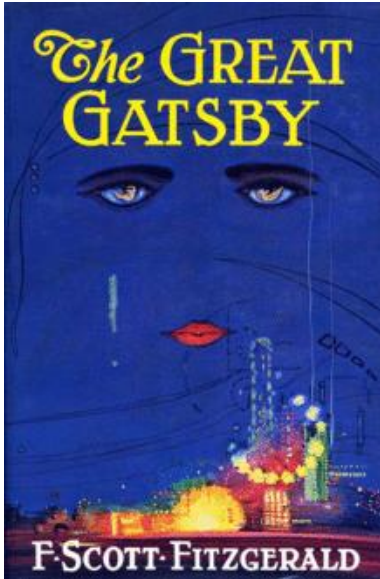
Учебно-методическая разработка по домашнему чтению по роману Ф. С. Фитцджеральда состоит из вокабуляра, подлежащего активному употреблению в соответствии с программой, а также систему учебных заданий по книге.

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**Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald** (September 24, 1896 – December 21, 1940) was an American author of novels and short stories, whose works are the paradigm writings of the Jazz Age, a term he coined himself. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the "Lost Generation" of the 1920s. He finished four novels: *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, his most famous, *The Great Gatsby* and what is now considered his true masterpiece, *Tender Is the Night*. Fitzgerald also wrote many short stories that treat themes of youth and promise along with despair and age.

The main events of the novel take place in the summer of 1922. Nick Carraway, a Yale graduate and World War I veteran from the Midwest – who serves as the novel's narrator – takes a job in New York as a bond salesman. He rents a small house on Long Island, in the (fictional) village of West Egg, next door to the lavish mansion of Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire who holds extravagant parties but does not participate in them. Nick drives around the bay to East Egg for dinner at the home

of his cousin, Daisy Fay Buchanan, and her husband, Tom, a college acquaintance of Nick's. They introduce Nick to Jordan Baker, an attractive, cynical young golfer with whom Nick begins a romantic relationship. She reveals to Nick that Tom has a mistress, Myrtle Wilson, who lives in the "valley of ashes": an industrial dumping ground between West Egg and New York City. Not long after this revelation, Nick travels to New York City with Tom and Myrtle to an apartment they keep for their affair. At the apartment, a vulgar and bizarre party takes place. It ends with Tom breaking Myrtle's nose after she annoys him by saying Daisy's name several times. (По материалам свободной энциклопедии Википедия <http://ru.wikipedia.org>)

**The Great Gatsby by F.S. Fitzgerald**  
**Assignment 1**  
**Chapter 1**

**Vocabulary list:**

1. vulnerable (n)
2. to reserve
3. a second cousin once removed
4. supercilious (adj.)
5. to hate somebody's guts
6. sophisticated
7. to give somebody a heart-to-heart talk
8. peremptory (adj.)

**Paraphrase or explain:**

1. "Reserving judgments is a matter of infinitive hope" (p.5)
2. "A sense of fundamental decencies is parceled out unequally at birth" (p.6)
3. "one of those men who reach an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anticlimax" (p. 10)
4. "something was making him nibble at the edge of stale ideas as if his sturdy physical egotism no longer nourished him peremptory heart" (p.25)

Questions and problems to discuss:

1. Speak about the author of the book.
2. Where and when is the scene laid?
3. Speak about the narrator – his age and vocation, his background, his mode of life and environment.
4. Nick's visit to the Buchanan's. Dwell upon the characterization of the host and the hostess. Pay special attention to the epithets employed for their characterization. Specify those of the epithets that are synonymic. What is their tendency?
5. Comment upon the behavior of all those present at dinner before and after the telephone call. Prove by using the text that the Buchanan's were suspicious of each other and of the guests.
6. Draw a character sketch of Daisy relying on what she said and how she said it?
7. What was Nick Caraway's opinion of what he had witnessed at the dinner party?
8. Sup up all the references to Gatsby in the chapter under discussion.

## **Assignment 2**

### **Chapter 2**

#### **Vocabulary list:**

1. to border on something
2. anemic (adj.)
3. to slap somebody on the shoulder
4. to be in the middle thirties (forties, etc)
5. to defer something to somebody's sensibilities
6. reluctant (adj.)
7. to be (to become) affected (affection)
8. the lower order
9. to be below somebody
10. to be in demand by somebody
11. to become entangled by somebody/something
12. to be repelled by somebody/something

#### **Questions and problems to discuss:**

1. Where is the scene laid? Give the description of the valley of ashes. Pay attention to all the names the place is referred to be the author as well as the reiterated words employed. What the symbolic significance has the description?
2. Why was Nick curious to see Tom's mistress and reluctant to meet her? Find sentences proving her reluctance.
3. Speak about the Wilsons. Find the salient points in their description. What was there about Myrtle Wilson that could have drawn Tom Buchanan to her?
4. The party at the apartment house. Pay attention to Myrtle's behavior and the way she treated those presents. Characterize her relying on her speech and manner. What details emphasize her utter vulgarity? What was it that made her despise her husband and appreciate Tom Buchanan?
5. The climax of the party. What do you think of Tom's behavior? Sum up everything that was new to you about Tom.
6. Why is the description of the party fragmentary? Speak of the peculiar blending of the comic and dramatic in it.
7. Discuss the feelings Nick Caraway might have experienced before the party, during the party and after it?

8. Compare Daisy and Myrtle.

Assignment 3

Chapter 3

Vocabulary list:

1. to be in full swing
2. prodigality (n), prodigal (adj.)
3. elemental (adj.)
4. to pick one's words with care
5. to stimulate curiosity
6. to set somebody off from somebody else
7. to wash one's hands from the whole matter
8. to reach a crescendo
9. to retract one's statement (words, hints, etc)
10. to be at a disadvantage
11. to deal in subterfuges
12. a cardinal virtue

Questions and topics to discuss:

1. Gatsby's party. Pick out details in its description suggestive of the scope of the host's wealth and prodigality. Discuss the features of the epoch as reflected in the chapter.
2. Gatsby's guests. What sorts of people were attracted by the party? Dwell upon their behavior. Pick out episodes showing the behavior of the same people: a) when the party was in full swing; b) at the end of it.
3. Was Nick Carraway set off from the other guests by the author? What about Jordan Baker? In what manner does Nick describe the proceedings? Is the manner humorous or sarcastic? Account for the choice of the manner. Was Nick repelled by the guests' behavior? What about you?
4. What kind of rumors were in circulation about the host? Whom did the rumors characterize more: the host or the people enjoying his hospitality? Dwell upon the way the author creates the atmosphere of mystery about Gatsby.

5. Nick meets Gatsby. Did Gatsby's appearance and manner confirm the rumors about him? Point out the most reassuring detail of the appearance and speak about it close to the text.
6. What details, episodes and scenes emphasize Gatsby's isolation and loneliness? Why do you think he bothered to give those parties?
7. Sum up Jordan Baker relying on Nick's direct characterization as well as her behavior at Gatsby's party. Pay attention to the epithets that are constantly accompanying her. Account for Nick's attitude to her. Comment upon Nick's reference to his cardinal virtue (at the end of the chapter). What was the mention prompted by?
8. Specify the features of the subject-matter common to all, the three chapters you have read. Which of the chapters is the most closely connected with the title of the novel? Have you had any glimpses into Gatsby's greatness yet?

Assignment 4.  
Chapter 4

Vocabulary:

1. to pay somebody a tribute
2. for no good reason at all
3. to be overwhelmed with some feeling
4. divine
5. to fall to pieces
6. to haunt
7. to pull somebody's leg
8. incredulity
9. ferocity (ferocious)
10. to impose oneself on somebody
11. to be on speaking terms with somebody

Questions and Tasks:

- I. Why do you think Nick Carraway takes pains to remember the numerous guests of Gatsby's parties "who paid him the subtle tribute of knowing nothing whatever about him?"



2. Gatsby tells Nick the story of his life. What was it about his story that made Nick doubtful and skeptical?
3. Speak on the lunch Nick was invited to by Gatsby. Why do you think Gatsby introduced Mr. Wolfsheim to Nick? What has happened after lunch?
4. Comment on the story of Daisy's love and marriage as it was told by Jordan Baker.
5. What was it that Gatsby wanted Nick Carraway to do for him? Why did the modesty of Gatsby's demand shake Nick? Did he understand more about Gatsby and his life?

Assignment 5  
Chapter 5-6

I. Vocabulary:

1. to render a service
2. to be consumed with some feeling
3. to tumble (fall) short  
something
4. random shot
5. to loaf loafer n.
6. shiftless adj.
7. meretricious adj.
8. glamour n., glamorous adj.
9. to be employed in some  
capacity
10. to run around
11. to be appalled by somebody/something

Explain:

1. "Americans, while occasionally willing to be serfs, have always been obstinate about being peasantry".
2. "His count of enchanted had diminished by one"
3. "For a while these reveries provided an outlet for his imaginations; they were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy's wing.

Topics and questions to discuss

1. Nick agrees to invite Daisy to-tea. Speak about the preparations Gatsby saw to. What 'do you think of the moral aspect of Nick's role? What enabled him to render that service to Gatsby without scruples?
2. The tea-party. Discuss the behavior of all those present after Daisy's arrival. How does the author convey Gatsby's terror, tensivity, despair and exultation?
3. Why do you think Gatsby made point of Daisy's seeing his house? Prove that Daisy -was impressed by the sight. What is your opinion of the true reason for Daisy's tears over Gatsby's shirts?
4. Prove that Daisy's visit was a critical moment for Gatsby's love. What words does the author use in reference to his love? What glimpses into Gatsby's greatness does the situation provide?
5. Specify the way the author consistently reminds the reader of Gatsby as a businessman at the most lyrical moments of his life?
6. Speak about the role Dan Cody played in Gatsby's life. Why is their acquaintance referred to as the beginning of Gatsby's career? Discuss the symbolic significance of his assumed name. Account for the necessity of this retrospective digression in the narration.
7. Tom Buchanan accepts Gatsby's hospitality for the first time. How does the scene characterize Gatsby and his guests?
8. The Buchanans come to Gatsby's party. What motives do you think caused each of them to come? Dwell on the way Tom succeeded in casting a gloomy shadow of the proceedings. Account for Daisy dislikes the party.
9. Discuss Gatsby's intentions in regard to Daisy. What do you think of the prospects of their realization?

## Assignment 6

### Chapter 7

#### I. Vocabulary:

1. in a grudging way
2. to fall in like a card-house
3. to be under (no) obligations to somebody
4. to make an investigation of something
5. to keep one's vigil
6. to slip from somebody's control
7. to make personal remarks
8. to cause a row

9. to be out in the open
10. libertine n, ant. prig n.
11. to get ideas into one's head
12. to go (off) on a spree
13. to leave somebody in the lurch
14. to draw into oneself
15. despicable adj.

Explain

1..."as obscurely as it had begun, his career as Trimalchio was over".

2."Her voice is full of money", he said suddenly.

Questions and Topics to discuss:

1. Which of the chapters you have read open with references to Gatsby's reputation in society? What is the emotional effect of these openings? Can Chapter VII be regarded as the turning point in the succession? Speak about the sudden change in Gatsby's way of life.
2. The reception at the Buchanans. Compare it with the one described at the beginning of the novel. What changes had the host's family undergone since then? Find evidence proving that the family relations reached a crucial point.
3. How did it come about that Tom learned all the truth? Dwell upon his behavior at home and. on the way to New York.
4. Speak about the stop at the Wilson's garage. Discuss the changes there. Whom do you hold responsible for them?
5. The row at the Plaza Hotel. On whose initiative did the rivals come out in the open? Dwell upon Corn's behavior, his transition from libertine to prig. What was there about Gatsby that caused Tom's infinite contempt for him?
6. What was the basic difference in the way Daisy and Gatsby regarded the future? Specify details showing Daisy's reluctance to be in the open and her being capable of double-dealing. Which turns of the row do you think shocked Daisy most? What was Gatsby evidently shocked by?
7. Give a brief summary of what happened at the Wilsons'. Was there anyone guilty of Myrtle's death?
8. Sum up all evidence proving Gatsby's absolute devotion to Daisy and his complete absorption in love.
9. Discuss the symbolic significance of the concluding scene of the/chapter. What light does it throw on the essence of Gatsby's drama?

10. Dwell on the changes of Nick's attitude to Gatsby on that particular day.
11. Specify the role of the chapter in the structure of the novel.

Assignment 7  
Chapter 8-9

Vocabulary List:

1. to clutch at some hope
2. to pervade something with...
3. to make the most of something
4. stratum n. (pi. strata)
5. to throw somebody over
6. to be crying for something
7. to throw dust' to somebody's eyes
8. to clean up the mess
9. squeamishness n. (squeamish adj.)

Questions and Topics to Discuss:

1. The story of Gatsby's love told by himself on his last day. Point out details laying bare Gatsby's admiration of wealth. Compare it with Daisy's attitude to wealth.
2. Nick's state of mind on the same day Prove that Nick was sure of the coming disaster. Account for Nick's refusal to see Jordan Baker.
3. Give a summary of what happened in Wilson's place after Myrtle's death. Speak off the peculiar blending of sober mindedness and madness in Wilson's behavior.
4. Gatsby's death. Speak about the atmosphere around it. Account for the behavior of those who were in his house at the moment. Who do you think was Gatsby's real murderer?
5. Speak about Nick's attempts to get people to come to Gatsby's funeral. Compare that state of things with that of the time when people crowded at his parties, even unasked.
6. Sum up all new information concerning Gatsby's youth life after the army and business that Nick came by after Gatsby's death. Discuss the sources of information as to their reliability.
7. Specify the moment in the novel when Nick gives no reserving judgment. Speak of ail -the episodes involved. Dwell upon Nick's final judgment.

8. The contrast between East and West as seen by Nick. Find weak points in Nick's conception.
9. Discuss the imagery employed by the author at the very end of the novel and its symbolic significance. Dwell on' the emotional key of the closing paragraphs.

### Assignment 8

1. Review the active vocabulary.
2. The features of the epoch as reflected in the novel.
3. Gatsby, his greatness and duplicity. The essence of his drama and tragedy.
4. Nick Carraway and his evolution.
5. The lost generation as shown in the novel. The Buchanans. Jordan Baker.
6. The author's personality as felt in the novel. The author's message.

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