

Character Chart

As you read *The Great Gatsby*, maintain the chart below. In the first column, list the character name. In the second column, include descriptions of the character's appearance and actions, including words, phrases, and quotations from the text (defining unknown words in context and verifying the meaning). In the third column, interpret and explain the connotations of the words and phrases and any possible rationale for the character's actions or how the character feels about the events of the novel. In the fourth column, determine the author's attitude toward the character based on how the character is introduced and developed throughout the text.

Character	Appearance/Actions	Connotations/Rationale	Author's Attitude
NIck Carraway	Chapter 1 "I'm inclined to reserve all judgement"(1). "prominent, well-to-do people in this middle-western city for three generations"(3). "I participated in that delayed Teutonic migration known as the Great War. I enjoyed the counter raid so thoroughly that I came back restless"(3). "I was going to bring back all such things into my life and become again that most limited of all specialists, the	 Nick describes himself in a way that suggests that he is contradictory-he's from money, but lives in a "less-fashionable" area; he's not judgemental, yet he judges. He is restless and in need of a change in his life because of his participation in the war. He seems to be entranced by Daisy and disgusted with Tom. Chapter 2 Nick is drunk in this scene and that should make the reader question his reliability. Nick also states that he is "within and without." He is attempting to 	■ The author seems to think that Nick is contradictory. He allows Nick to present parts of his character or life that don't mesh. This may mean that the author thinks that Nick is disingenuous. Chapter 2 ■ The author's attitude toward Nick seems again, contradictory. He allows Nick to narrate, but he also sets Nick up as drunk (and therefore unreliable) and has Nick seem not fully a part of the events. The author seems to feel that Nick is not completely trustworthy and weak.



'well-rounded' man"(4).

"I lived at West Egg, the. . . less fashionable of the two" (5).

"I was confused and a little disgusted as I drove away" (20).

Chapter 2

"I have been drunk just twice in my life and the second time was that afternoon, so everything that happened has a dim hazy cast over it" (29).

"I have to leave you here" (28).

"I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life" (34).

Chapter 3

"I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited" (41).

"Rather ill-at-ease among swirls and

- create distance between himself and the antics (the immorality) that are happening in this chapter.
- However, Nick never leaves (though he says he wants to) so it also shows us that Nick is weak.
- Nick is contradictory again--he is "enchanted and repelled" by the situation.

Chapter 3

- Nick's characterization as
 "different" or an "outsider" is
 continued in this chapter as he was
 one of the "few guests who had
 been invited" and that he was "ill at-ease." He also states that he is
 "one of the few honest people" he's
 ever met. Nick presents himself as
 different, most of the time better,
 than those around him.
- Nick's unreliability as a narrator is highlighted in this chapter because he is drunk again.
- Nick's contradictory nature is shown in this chapter as he mentions his "interior rules." These "interior

Chapter 3

 The author's attitude toward Nick in this chapter is that he is different from those around him. He is uncomfortable in his surroundings and he discusses how he is honest when those around him are not. He also, again, seems to think that Nick is restrained character with "interior rules" that seem to prevent him from acting on his emotions. This inaction is becoming a repetitive part of Nick's personality.

Chapter 4

 Continuing from his first encounter with Gatsby, Nick seems to continue to be enthralled by Gatsby's charmed. He knows intellectually that Gatsby is lying, but is easily swept up in his stories. Allowing the reader to see that Nick knows Gatsby is lying, but still says nothing, makes Nick look hypocritical, therefore making it seem as though he is weak.



eddies of people I didn't know" (42).

"I had taken two finger bowls of champagne and the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental and profound" (47).

"For a moment I thought I loved her. But I am slow thinking and full of interior rules that act as brakes on my desires" (58).

"I am one of the few honest people I have ever known" (59).

Chapter 4

"With an effort I managed to restrain my incredulous laughter" (66). "My incredulity was submerged in fascination now" (66) " Even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder" (69).

Chapter 5

"I'm going to call up Daisy tomorrow and invite her over here to tea" (82).

rules" prevent him from loving Jordan and creates a sense of restraint within his characterization.

Chapter 4

 Nick uses the word "incredulous" to describe his disbelieving feeling as Gatsby relays the stories of his life. He later says that "even Gatsby could happen." This contrast reveals how Nick is easily swayed by Gatsby's charm. Though Nick knows he should be skeptical, he begins to believe him.

Chapter 5

• Nick seems to be in constant pursuit of Gatsby's approval. He literally asks for his approval of the preparations for the tea ("Will they do?"). Though they barely know each other, this question, and the fact that Nick is doing a favor for Gatsby, creates an odd relationship between the two, with Nick being the one looking for Gatsby's approval. He also seems hurt when he states that "Gatsby didn't know

Chapter 5

 This chapter highlights Nick as the observer again, staying quiet as immorality (the adulterous relationship between Gatsby and Daisy) goes on with his help. Nick's moral compass seems to be skewed. Though the reader may sympathize with the romantic nature of this rekindled romance, Nick's place in this situation does not make him look like a positive character.

Chapter 6

• The author seems to be allowing Nick to become more and more aware of the immorality and overall "wrongness" of the situation around him. However, he still does not allow Nick to act on his thoughts. He continues to go along with those around him, remaining the observer. This seems to continue the author's trend of portraying Nick as weak.

Chapter 7

• The author's attitude toward Nick



"Will they do?" (84).

"I tried to go then, but they wouldn't hear of it; perhaps my presence made them feel more satisfactorily alone" (94).

"Gatsby didn't know me now at all. I looked once more at them and they looked back at me, remotely, possessed by intense life" (96).

Chapter 6

"Moreover he told it to me at a time of confusion, when I had reached the point of believing everything and nothing about him" (101).

"I was in New York, trotting around with Jordan" (101).

"As though they cared!" (101).

"There were the same people, or at least the same sort of people, the same profusion of champagne, the

- me now at all" as though he's been shunned or replaced.
- Nick seems unable to make decisions around Gatsby. He "tried" to go, but they "wouldn't hear of it."
- Nick as the observer is also repeated here. Nick's "presence" seems to legitimize this illegitimate relationship between Gatsby and Daisy.

Chapter 6

Nick's animosity toward those of the wealthy class and his confusion about his place in this situation is evident in this chapter. He uses the word "confusion" to describe his feelings toward Gatsby. His negative tone toward Tom and his friends is apparent in the line "As though they cared." Finally, he uses the word "same" repeatedly to describe the monotony of this class of people, along with the word "harshness." This represents a change in Nick's opinion of these people and his alliance that seems to be forming with Gatsby.

seems to continue to be negative. For most of the chapter, Nick remains an observer--through the fight in the hotel room to the observation of Myrtle's death. However, Fitzgerald finally allows Nick to take a stand against association with Tom, Daisy, and Jordan. This allows the reader to finally see Nick as a character who is more active and less passive, thus proving that the author's attitude toward Nick is more positive.

Chapter 8

 Fitzgerald seems to have eliminated Nick as the "fencesitting" character he has been for most of the novel. In this chapter, Nick picks a side, finally putting an end to the ambivalence he has displayed throughout the book. Though he is siding with a aide to a murder cover-up, Nick's actions in this chapter (and the next) create him as a much more sympathetic character.



same man-colored, many-keyed commotion, but I felt an unpleasantness in the air, a pervading harshness that hadn't been there before"(104).

"It is invariably saddening to look through new eyes at things upon which you have expended your own powers of adjustment" (104).

Chapter 7

"I wanted to get up and slap him on the back. I had one of those renewals of complete faith in him that I'd experienced before" (129).

"At this point Jordan and I tried to go but Tom and Gatsby insisted with competitive firmness that we remain" (130).

"He looked--and this is said in all contempt for the babbled slander of his garden--as if he had 'killed a man'" (134).

"Thirty--the promise of a decade of

 Nick's opinions toward Gatsby still seem somewhat positive (he defends Gatsby against Tom's friends with "As though they cared"), but he still points out that it is "saddening" to look at Gatsby with the "new" eyes he's gaining. The use of the word "new" reveals that there is some kind of realization or awakening that is happening within Nick.

Chapter 7

- Nick's perspective on Gatsby continues to fluctuate here. He goes from pride ("renewal", "complete faith") to near hatred ("disliked him so much"). He also mentions that Gatsby looked "like he killed a man." This back-andforth between positivity and negativity toward Gatsby continues to reveal Nick's indecisiveness.
- Nick seems to become more pessimistic in this chapter, using words like "damned" and "dislike." This pessimism reflects the downward spiral that most of the

Chapter 9

 Having made his decision to be on Gatsby's side, this chapter truly places Nick into the most positive role in the book as he is the only character to seem moved by Gatsby's death. While Fitzgerald spends the majority of the book refusing to cast Nick in a positive or negative light, his actions in the final chapter seem to create Nick as, if not a good character, a more positive one.



loneliness, a thinning list of single men to know, a thinning briefcase of enthusiasm, thinning hair"(135). "I'd be damned if I'd go in; I'd had enough of all of them for one day and suddlely that included Jordan too"(142).

"I disliked him so much by this time that I didn't find it necessary to tell him he was wrong" (143).

Chapter 8

"I felt that I had something to tell him, something to warn him about, and morning would be too late" (147).

"You ought to go away" (148).

"I didn't want to leave Gatsby" (153).

"'They're a rotten crowd... You're worth the whole damn bunch put together"(154).

"It was the only compliment I ever gave him, because I disapproved of him from beginning to end" (154).

characters are on. His pessimism continues with his description of himself (the repetitive use of the word "thinning") revealing that Nick's exposure to the upper class is causing him to deteriorate.

Chapter 8

- Nick's actions in this chapter are no longer contradictory. He has now become Gatsby's caretaker. His words reflect an allegiance that he has hinted at in other chapters, but that has become steadfast in this chapter. He stays with him and makes suggestions for Gatsby's safety ("You ought to stay" and "I didn't want to leave him'). These thoughts and his action of staying with Gatsby all night support Nick's new role as Gatsby's caretaker.
- Nick's description of Tom, Daisy, and Jordan as "rotten" solidifies his opinion of Gatsby versus the others. He seems to have taken Gatsby's "side" and has judged the others as "rotten."



		Chapter 9	
	Chapter 9 "I found myself on Gatsby's side, and alone" (164). "I wanted to get somebody for him" (164). "They were careless people, Tom and Daisythey smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness" (179).	 In this chapter, though Gatsby is dead, Nick continues as Gatsby's caretaker. His actions and words to others displays his allegiance and fondness for Gatsby. He says he is on "Gatsby's side" and that he "wanted to get somebody for him." In the absence of any other person, Gatsby becomes Nick's responsibility in a book where no one ever takes responsibility. Just as in Chapter 8, Nick solidifies his space on Gatsby's "side" by criticizing Tom and Daisy. He uses the word "careless" to describe them, just as Nick himself is attempted to "care" so much for Gatsby. 	
Tom Buchanan	Chapter 1 "One of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twentyone that everything afterwards savours of anti climax." "His family were enormously wealthy."	Chapter 1 Tom is portrayed using words that create him as an aggressive, dominant character. He may act this aggressively because he is "enormously wealthy" and used to being in control. Tom is also portrayed as being a	 The author's attitude toward Tom seems to be negative, as he is portrayed as arrogant, aggressive, racist, and slightly dumb. The author also includes information about Tom's affair, again characterizing him in a



"Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game."

"He was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. . . .it was a body capable of enormous leverage--a cruel body."

"'I've got a nice place here.""

"The idea is if we don't look out the white race will be--will be utterly submerged."

"There was something pathetic in his concentration as if his complacency, more acute than of old, was not enough to him anymore."

racist and concerned about minorities "taking over."

Chapter 2

- Tom's eagerness to introduce Nick to his "girl" reveals that he has no qualms about this affair.
- Tom is again revealed to be dominant in his conversations toward Myrtle and George.
- Tom's aggressive nature is seen in action as he hits Myrtle, proving that he also doesn't think too highly of her. He also lies to her about Daisy being Catholic so he doesn't have to pursue a lasting relationship with her.

Chapter 6

 In chapter 6, Tom's words actions support is dominant personality, but, in the presence of Gatsby, he seems to be more unsure of himself. He is insulted at his introduction as "the polo player" and vows to discover who Gatsby is. This is a way of asserting his dominance over Gatsby. He frames both quotations negative manner.

Chapter 2

 The author has a disdainful attitude toward Tom by portraying him actually acting on his aggression toward a woman. This vilifies Tom in the eyes of the reader, proving that the author sees him as a negative character.

Chapter 6

Fitzgerald continues to portray
 Tom in a negative way in this
 chapter. He continues to portray
 Tom as domineering and
 hypocritical, thus causing the
 reader to immediately be aligned
 against him (and "for" Gatsby).

Chapter 7

 Though this chapter gives the reader his or her only sight of Tom's vulnerability (his soft words to Daisy and his tears at Myrtle's death), the majority of his words and actions in this chapter continue his negative portrayal. His treatment of Gatsby in the hotel room is motivated by injured



Chapter 2

"I want you to meet my girl."

"He's so dumb he doesn't know he's alive."

"Daisy was not a Catholic and I was a little shocked at the elaborateness of the lie."

"Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand."

Chapter 6

"By God, I may be old-fashioned in my ideas, but women run around too much these days to suit me. They meet all kind of crazy fish" (103).
"I'd a little rather not be the polo player" (105).

"I'd like to know who he is and what he does" (108).

Chapter 7

"Tom flung open the door, blocked out its space for a moment with his thick body, and hurried into the room" (116).

"I'm the first man who ever made a

with the word "I" reinforcing that Tom is only concerned about himself.

 Tom's hypocrisy is also revealed here as he judges women's "running around" though he is openly "running around." He calls himself "old-fashioned" for this belief, attempting to align his opinion of himself with morals; however, it only serves to make him look ridiculously hypocritical.

Chapter 7

- Tom's arrogance and dominance is revealed in this chapter ("flung open" "I am the first").
- Tom's shock at the realization of Daisy's relationship with Gatsby further reveals this arrogance ("his mouth opened" "he was afraid").
 This is the first chapter where we see any crack in Tom's bravado. He responds to that vulnerability with more heightened bravado as he bullies Gatsby ("What kind of row" "I'll be damned") and then continues to dominate Daisy

pride, rather than a quest for truth, continuing Tom's portrayal as a dominant, arrogant character.

Chapter 9

 Fitzgerald ends Tom's story with a conversation that reflects the characteristics Tom has exhibited throughout the book. Tom is unchanged by the events in the book, a flat character. This reveals Fitzgerald's own negative opinion about people in the upper class and their lack of possibility for change.



stable out of a coreco"//110\	/"
stable out of a garage"(119). "His mouth opened a little, and he looked at Gatsby, and then back at Daisy as if he had just recognized her as someone he knew a long time ago"(119). "I think he was afraid they would dart down a side street and out of his life forever"(126). "What kind of a row are you trying to cause in my house anyhow"(129). "I'll be damned if I see how you got	("covered her own"). Chapter 9 This final conversation with Tom solidifies his arrogant role in the book. The use of the phrase "he had it coming to him" reveals Tom's own lack of responsibility for any of the events in the book. He is content to let Gatsby take the fall for any misbehavior because he perceives himself as superior.
within a mile of her unless you brought the groceries to the back door"(131). "In a little while I heard a low husky sob, and saw that the tears were overflowing down his face"(141). "He was talking intently across the table at her, and in his earnestness his hand had fallen upon and covered her own"(145).	
Chapter 9 "What if I did tell him? That fellow	

had it coming to him. He threw dust



	into your eyes just like he did in Daisy's, but he was a tough one" (178).		
Daisy Buchanan	Chapter 1 "She laughed, an absurd, charming little laugh." "I've heard it said that Daisy's murmur was only to make people lean toward her." "Her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouthbut there was an excitement in her voice that men who had cared for her found difficult to forget." "Do they miss me?" "What do people plan?" "Hulking" "Talkedwith a bantering inconsequence that was never quite chatter, that was a cool as their white	 Daisy's words, actions, and descriptions reveal her as a lovely, but vacant woman. She is charming ("charming" "passionate"), but also slightly superficial and empty ("What do people plan?" "bantering inconsequence") Her "smirk" at the end of this chapter reveals that she may be trying to manipulate Nick. Her use of "hulking" to taunt Tom also makes her seem immature and also reveals the problems in their marriage. Chapter 5 Daisy reveals her lack of concern about her own marriage ("Who's Tom"), therefore revealing her own lack of morals. Daisy's materialism is revealed in this chapter as she focuses more on the material things ("It's huge" 	 Chapter 1 ■ The author seems to at first have a positive attitude toward Daisy, but as the chapter progresses, he develops a more negative attitude through the words, actions, and descriptions he gives to her. Chapter 5 ■ The author seems to portray Daisy, again, as materialistic and morally ambiguous. Most of her actions and comments revolve around material things in this chapter, thus revealing her connection to those thingsboth in Gatsby's mind and the mind of the reader. Chapter 6 ■ The author portrays Daisy as a woman who seems focused more on upsetting her husband than anything else. This immature nature suggests that the author has a negative attitude toward Daisy. Though Tom is unlikeable, Daisy's



dresses and their impersonal eyes in the absence of all desire."

"'I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool--that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool."

"I've been everywhere and seen everything and done everything."

"She looked at me with an absolute smirk on her lovely face."

Chapter 5

"Don't bring Tom"..."Who's Tom?" she asked innocently"(83).
"That huge place there"(90).
"They're such beautiful shirts...it makes me sad because I've never seen such--such beautiful shirts before"(92).

Chapter 6

"She's lovely" (105).

"They sauntered to my house and sat on the steps for a half an hour, while "lovely shirts"), rather than Gatsby himself. Her words are focused on the concrete things that Gatsby is offering her, rather than Gatsby as a person.

Chapter 6

- Daisy's describes the party as "lovely" not really to complement it, but to annoy her husband who wants desperately for her to be appropriately judgemental. Daisy seems to proud to admit this and continues to use vague words (like "lovely") to describe the party.
- Daisy's animosity for her husband is revealed again through her acknowledgment of his affairs ("little gold pen") and her "sauntering" off with Gatsby alone. The use of the word "sauntering" reveals a brazenness that the affair has taken on. Daisy seems to be using it in her continuing plot of irritating her husband, rather than out of any true emotion.

Chapter 7

• Daisy's indecisive nature is

behavior is also unattractive Chapter 7

 Daisy's indecisiveness in this chapter toward Tom and Gatsby, as well as her refusal to take responsibility for Myrtle's murder continue the list of negative attributes that can be associated with her. The author is not providing her with one redeemable quality, therefore causing the reader to feel frustrated with her character. This frustration seems also to be felt by the author toward Daisy.

Chapter 8

 The peek into Daisy's younger life only solidifies the negative portrayal of her in the novel. The author creates a younger Daisy as one who chooses a path out of boredom and not from any true emotion. Not even in her youth does Daisy gain any positive attributes from the author.

Chapter 9

Daisy's lack of emotion toward



at her request I remained watchfully in the garden" (105).

"And if you want to take down any addresses here's my little gold pencil" (105).

Chapter 7

"Bless-sed pre-cious, she crooned, holding out her arms, Come to your own mother that loves you" (117"

"You always look so cool"(119).

"Why--how could I love him-possibly?"(132).

"I did love him once--but I loved you
too"(132).

Chapter 8

"For Daisy was young and her artifical world was redolent of orchids and pleasant cheerful snobbery" (151).

"She wanted her life shaped now, immediately--and the decision must be made by some force--of love, of money, of unquestionable practicality" (151).

highlighted in this chapter. She constantly vacillates between love for Gatsby and Tom, unable to make a decision between the two. This makes her appear disingenuous and incapable of true emotion. This characteristic is also revealed by her affected approach to her daughter.

Chapter 8

 The words associated with Daisy's younger life ("artificial" "snobbery") reveal her shallow nature, as does her desire to see her "life shaped." Her concern for these conventions, rather than authentic (or maybe unauthentic) makes her appear unkind and unfeeling.

Chapter 9

 Daisy's actions of not calling after Myrtle's death and then leaving town after Gatsby's death create the final picture of a heartless, selfish woman. Gatsby's death seems to suggest that the author sees her as completely heartless and selfish. She has only been portrayed negatively in the book and this final act of selfishness completes her character in a final brushstroke of negativity. The author seems to be suggesting that Daisy's characteristics (materialism and selfishness) are what is wrong with the upper class.



	Chapter 9 "I called up Daisy half an hour after we found im, called her instinctively and without hesitation. But she and Tom had gone away early that afternoon, and taken baggage wit them" (164).		
Jordan Baker	Chapter 1 "Evidently it surprised her as much as it did me, for she yawned and with a series of rapid, deft movements stood up into the room." ""I've been lying on that sofa for as long as I can remember." "She was a slender, small-breasted girl with an erect carriage which she	 The words used to introduce Jordan portray her as rather masculine ("small-breasted" "cadet"). Even her name is masculine. She is seen yawning twice in the chapter, signifying that she is bored or tired. She is an athlete which further categorizes her as not a traditional female character. 	The author's attitude toward Jordan seems distant. Her description and actions in this chapter are rather dull and her character remains fairly one- dimensional. Chapter 3 ■ Jordan's character is given more detail in this chapter and it is apparent that the author wishes to
	accentuated by throwing her body backward at the shoulders like a young cadet. Her grey sun-strained eyes looked back at me with polite reciprocal curiosity out of a wan, charming discontented face." "Its pleasing contemptuous expression had looked out at me from many	Chapter 3 • Several, very negative words are used to describe Jordan. In this chapter the words "impersonally," "bored," "haughty," and "dishonest" are all used to describe Jordan. These words all have negative connotations and emphasize the arrogant vapidness of Jordan.	portray her as arrogant and domineering. Fitzgerald provides us with several moments where Jordan appears arrogant and selfish. He also portrays her as masculine and domineering, continuing the trend toward a masculinization of Jordan started in chapter 1.



rotogravure pictures of the sporting life at Asheville and Hot Springs and Palm Beach."

Chapter 3 "Held my hand impersonally"

"I like large parties. They're so intimate. At small parties there isn't any privacy."

"She wore her evening dress. . .like sports clothes."

"That bored haughty face that she turned to the world concealed something"

"She was incurably dishonest. She wasn't able to endure being at a disadvantage."

"I am careful. . .Well, other people are."

"They'll keep out of my way. . It takes two to make an accident."

- Jordan's characterization as masculine is continued in this chapter as she is said to wear her evening clothes as "sports clothes" revealing that even in feminine attire, she appears manly. Nick also states that she "wasn't able to endure being at a disadvantage." This reveals that Jordan is used to being in control of a situation which again adds to her characterization as an atypical female of the time.
- Several words and phrases are used to reveal Jordan's arrogance. She said that "other people are" careful and that "they'll keep out of my way." These lines reveal her arrogance as they show how she places herself as more important than others. She also seems to think that she doesn't have to follow the rules, but others do, further revealing her arrogance.

Chapter 9

 Jordan's judgemental nature and arrogance are revealed in this chapter. She states that Nick

Chapter 9

 The author seems to continue to portray Jordan as arrogant, however, his choice of Jordan as the character who will reflect Nick's own shortcomings (a reflection that Nick himself can't seem to make) also allows her to have a pivotal role in the book. Because Nick is the narrator, the reader never gets a clear picture of him. Jordan's reaction, while still revealing her arrogance, also allows us to see a different side of Nick.



	"I hate careless people. That's why I like you." Chapter 9 "Nevertheless you did throw me over"(177). "I thought you were rather an honest, straightforward person. I thought it was your secret pride"(177).	"threw her over" and then points out that Nick claims to be "honest," thus pointing out that she thinks he is dishonest. These choices reveal Jordan's own hurt pride at Nick's jilting.	
Jay Gatsby	Chapter 1 "He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious waya single green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock." Chapter 3 "Somebody told me they thought he killed a man" "He was a German spy during the war" "I'll bet he killed a man" "Didn't cut the pages" "Rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in itconcentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in	 The first words associated with Gatsby are "stretching" and "green." The stretching provides the reader with the thought that Gatsby is reaching for something, literally and figuratively. Chapter 3 The statements made about Gatsby create the image of a dangerous person before the reader even meets him. He is described as a possible "spy" and twice the reader hears that he possibly "killed a man." The use of the words "spy" and "killed" builds a persona of danger. The uncut pages of the library 	 Chapter 1 Gatsby's appearance is very brief in this chapter, but the author already seems to portray him in a positive light. He introduces the reader to Gatsby by showing him reaching, therefore, maybe a hopeful character. Chapter 3 The author uses contrasting descriptions of Gatsby in this chapter to create a character who appears to be mysterious, but whose mysteriousness may just be a way to hide who he really is. He creates intrigue with mention of the possibility of a dangerous past. He uses the "uncut" books as a



"An elegant young roughneck, a year or two over thirty whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd."

"Philadelphia wants you on the phone, sir."

Chapter 4

"He was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American...This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness. He was never quite still; there was always a tapping foot somewhere or the impatient opening and closing of a hand."

"I am the son of some wealthy people in the middle west--all dead now."
""He hurried the phrase 'educated at Oxford' or swallowed it or choked on it as though it had bothered him before."

- books, Gatsby has not read any of them. The books are there to create an image of a well-read man.
- Nick's description of Gatsby reveals his own enchantment with this character. It also reveals Gatsby's charming nature as his smile is described as having a "quality of eternal reassurance" and "prejudice in your favor."
- Gatsby's "formality of speech just missed being absurd" reveals a disconnect between who Gatsby is and who he is trying to portray himself as. He is also described as a "roughneck" and "elegant", further revealing this dual persona of Gatsby.
- The use of the city "Philadelphia" as a entity who is calling on the phone makes it seems as though the whole city (or at least an important part of the city) needed Gatsby's attention, continuing the idea that Gatsby is important.

Chapter 4

• Gatsby's restless nature is revealed

and continues this with the mention of his absurd speech patterns.

Chapter 4

• The author's attitude toward the character of Gatsby in this chapter seems to be almost comical. He portrays Gatsby as claiming a life that is unbelievable, but trying desperately to get Nick to believe it is. This desperate storytelling is juxtaposed with his friendship with Wolfsheim, whose danger and sinister nature is obvious. The wealthy, privileged background he claims mixed with his association with apparent criminals is just another contrast that makes Gatsby appear unrealistic and fake.

Chapter 5

 In this chapter, the author portrays Gatsby as a naive dreamer. In chapter 5, Gatsby's focus on material objects and his hope that they will woo Daisy is foolish. His gaze on Daisy and his inability to see her faults or that time has



"Mr. Carraway, this is my friend, Meyer Wolfsheim."

Chapter 5

""And I thought that if you don't make very much. . . . Well this would interest you. It woudln't take up much of your time and you might pick up a nice bit of money"(

"Five years next November" (87).

"But there was a change in Gatsby that was simply confounding. He literally glowed" (89).

"He had passed visibly through two states and was entering upon a third. After his embarrassment and his unreasoning joy he was consumed with wonder at her presence. He had been full of the idea so long, dreamed it right, through to the end, waited with his teeth set, so to speak, at an inconceivable pitch of intensity. Now, in the reaction, he was running down like an overwound clock" (91-2).

in this chapter. The author states that he "was never quite still" and "was always tapping foot." He also uses the terms "restlessness" and "impatient" to describe Gatsby. These descriptions, combined with Gatsby's stories of various travelings in his life, make Gatsby's restlessness quite apparent.

- The way Nick describes Gatsby's story of his life reveals a level of fantastic untruth to Gatsby's character. His proclamation that his family is "all dead now" and the fact that he "choked" on his words about Oxford, leads the reader to believe that Gatsby is not to be fully trusted.
- Gatsby's admittance of friendship to Wolfsheim and the consequent characterization of Wolfsheim as a dangerous gambler add to the suspicious nature of Gatsby's background. His use of this type of character to vouch for him speaks to a less than genteel background for Gatsby.

passed supports this naivete. While he may seem somewhat romantic in this chapter, and, thus positive, his false hope in their future makes him appear simplistic.

Chapter 6

- In this chapter, the author seems to portray some of the negative aspects of Gatsby. Gatsby's competitiveness with Tom reveals his own arrogance and obsession with status and wealth.
- This chapter also reveals Gatsby's tendency to live in the past. This tendency is not exactly a positive trait in this book as it makes Gatsby look like a foolish dreamer.

Chapter 7

 This chapter reveals more negative attitude toward Gatsby. His description of Daisy's voice highlights his obsession with material objects. His insistence on Daisy's confession of love reveals (again) his foolish desire to live in the past. Finally, his temper reveals a danger that Gatsby has



"Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one" (93).

Chapter 6

"I know your wife" (102).

"You must see the faces of many people you've heard about" (104).

"Tom Buchanan--the polo player" (105).

"She didn't like it" (109).

"Can't repeat the past?...Why of course you can! (110)

"Out of the corner of his eye, Gatsby saw that the blocks of the sidewalks really formed a ladder and mounted to a secret place above the trees--he

could climb to it, if he climbed alone,

Chapter 5

- Many of the words used in this chapter have a magical quality.
 Words like "dreamed", "enchanted objects," "wonder," and "glowed" revealing the effect that Daisy has on Gatsby. This magical pull she has reveals the power she has held on his life.
- Gatsby's observation of Daisy in the setting of his house reveals that she is, to him, connected with the material, with possessions. She is the final "enchanted object."

Chapter 6

- Gatsby's competitiveness with Tom ("I know your wife" "the polo player") reveals Gatsby's obsession with status. He seeks to be "more" than Tom as a way of proving that he is worthy of Daisy. This need to compete with Tom also belies an insecurity in Gatsby.
- Gatsby's obsession with status is also revealed by his description of the sidewalk as a ladder ("climbed alone") This visual representation

kept hidden for the majority of the book. All of these attributes that are highlighted in this chapter create a negative and sad view of Gatsby.

Chapter 8

• The purpose of Chapter 8 is to provide an explanation of why Gatsby has pursued Daisy for so long. Rather than provide a beautiful love story, Gatsby's fascination with her seems to have more to do with her socioeconomic level rather than her personality. This obsession with status reveals Gatsby's true motivation for the pursuit of Daisy--not love but upward mobility. This reveals an attitude of negativity from the author.

Chapter 9

 The final chapter in Gatsby's story reveals an almost mournful attitude from the author. He gives Gatsby a funeral with no attendees, reflecting the emptiness of Gatsby's seemingly full life.



and once there he could suck on the pap of life, gulp down the incomparable milk of wonder"(110). Chapter 7

"Afterward he kept looking at the child with surprise. I don't think he had ever really believed in its existence before" (117).

"Her voice is full of money" (120).
"Your wife doesn't love you. . She's
never loved you. She loves me" (130).
"You loved me, too?" (132).

"Then I turned back to Gatsby--and was startled at his expression. He looked--and this is said in all contempt for the babbled slander of his garden-as if he had 'killed a man'" (134) "Yes. . . but of course I'll say I was" (143).

"I want to wait here till Daisy goes to bed. Good night, old sport" (145). Chapter 8

"She was the first 'nice' girl he had ever known. In various unrevealed capacities he had come in contact with such people, but always with indiscernable barbed wire of upward mobility and Daisy's relationship with it reveals Gatsby's need to move up in the world and his association with Daisy as a manifestation of that upward motion.

Chapter 7

- Gatsby's actions in this chapter reveal his refusal to see the present and desire to repeat the past. He looks at Daisy's child with "surprise" and tries to discredit Tom and Daisy's relationship ("She's never love you") in order to maintain the vision he has of his dream (Daisy).
- Gatsby's danger is revealed in this chapter when Nick notes that he looks "as if he had killed a man."
 This is one of the few provable negative comments toward Gatsby in this book and it reveals that his carefully crafted exterior is cracking.
- Gatsby's misguided devotion to Daisy is apparent in this chapter through his insistence that he take the blame for the accident and through his desire to watch over her

However, the author's conflicted attitude toward Gatsby is revealed when he reflects back on Gatsby's pursuit of the green light. This is almost a eulogy for Gatsby highlighting the most likeable characteristic he possessed--his hope.



between"(148).

"But now he found that he had committed himself to the following of a grail" (149).

"Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes, and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor" (150).

"The track curved and now it was going away from the sun which, as it sank lower, seemed to spread itself in benediction over the vanishing city where she had drawn her breath. He stretched out his hand desperately as if to snatch only a wisp of air, to save a fragment of the spot that she had made lovely for him. But it was all going by too fast now for his blurred eyes and he knew that he had lost that part of it, the freshest and the best, forever" (153).

unnecessarily. What once seemed romantic now seems sad and Gatsby seems weak for his devotion.

Chapter 8

• The descriptions of Daisy in this chapter as a "nice" girl, a"grail," "the freshest and the best" as seen in the eyes of Gatsby reflect his inability to see past the trappings of money and status. Seeing Daisy's actions through the book, the reader knows that she is not "nice" or a "grail"; however, Gatsby's blindness to reality trumps anything else as he depicts Daisy in a romanticism that is void of reason.

Chapter 9

- The images associated with Gatsby's death (his father's misguided impression of his success, the "four or five servants" at his funeral, and Owl Eye's "poor son of a bitch") create a melancholy tone that is a stark contrast to Gatsby's "loud" life.
- Though Gatsby is often portrayed as negatively, the last mention of him



	"I suupose Daisy'll call too"(154). Chapter 9 "Jimmy was bound to get ahead. He	in this book portrays him as the embodiment of hope, reaching out toward the green light. This hopeful	
	always had some resolves like this or something"(173). "About five o'clock our procession of	last image of Gatsby seems to be symbolizing the beauty that lies in a dream. Though it may be foolish,	
	three cars reached the cemetery and stopped in a thick drizzle beside the gatefirst a motor hearse, horribly	believing in that "green light" is what allows people to "beat on."	
	black and wet, then Mr. Gatz and the minister and I in the limousine, and, a little later, four or five servants and		
	the postman from West Egg in Gatsby's station wagon, all wet to the skin"(174).		
	"That poor son of a bitch" (175). "Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year		
	recedes before us"(180).	Charles 2	Chautau 2
Myrtle Wilson	Chapter 2 "Middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her surplus flesh sensuouslyher face contained no facet or gleam of beauty but there	Chapter 2 ■ The words used to describe Myrtle suggest that she is sexy ("sensuously" "smouldering") and full of life ("vitality"). She is not	Chapter 2 ■ The author seems to have a condescending attitude toward Myrtle. He seems to highlight how ridiculous her apartment and her
	was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually	traditionally pretty, though.She is dominant when she is with Tom, revealing that she seems to be	clothes are to reflect how clueless she is. • However, the author also gives her



smouldering."

"Get some chairs why don't you, so somebody can sit down."

"I want to see you. . . All right."

"She let four taxi cabs drive away before she selected a new one, lavender-colored with grey upholstery."

"The living room was crowded to the doors with a set of tapestried furniture entirely too large. . .scenes of ladies swinging in the gardens of Versailles."

"Mrs. Wilson had changed her costume. . .and was now attired in an elaborate afternoon dress."

"The intense vitality had converted into impressive hauteur."

"Raised her eyebrows in despair at the shiftlessness of the lower orders."

- in control of that relationship. In contrast, Tom tells Myrtle what to do and she listens.
- In several instances (the taxi, the apartment), Myrtle shows how concerned she is about appearances. The word "hauteur" also implies that she is putting on a facade of wealth.

Chapter 7

- The words used to describe Myrtle in this chapter reveal her as the dispensable character that she was throughout the book. Her look is described as "purposeless." Even in death she is "extinguished" as though she is a fire to be put out.
- Her injuries are described in gory details, yet still portray her in the sexualized way that her character is known for in this book. Her breast is described as "a flap" and her mouth was "ripped open." These attributes that sexualized her in the earlier chapters, now create a morbid image of Myrtle in death.

a vitality that Daisy lacks, proving that his attitude toward Myrtle is more positive than his attitude toward Daisy.

Chapter 7

The author's attitude toward
 Myrtle is that she is vibrant, but
 dispensable. Her death is a
 grotesque event, made even more
 grotesque by the way her breasts
 and mouth are described.
 However, her death at the hands of
 the careless upper class creates her
 as a victim and somewhat
 sympathetic, especially in
 comparison with the members of
 the upper class.



He borrowed somebody's best suit to get married in."
Daisy, Daisy!"
Chapter 7 "Her expression was curiously amiliarit was an expression I had often seen on women's faces but on Myrtle Wilson's face it seemed ourposeless and inexplicable until I realized that her eyes, wide with realous terror, were fixed not on Tom out on Jordan Baker, whom she took o be his wife"(124).
Myrtle Wilson, her life violently extinguished"(137).
When they had torn open her chirtwaist still damp with perspiration hey saw that her left breast was cwinging loose like a flap and there was no need to listen for the heart beneath. The mouth was wide open and ripped at the corners as though



	she had choked a little in giving up the tremendous vitality she had stored so long"(137).	Chanter 2	
George Wilson	Chapter 2 "He was a blond, spiritless man, anaemic and faintly handsome." "I don't mean that I just meant." "Oh sure." Chapter 7 "Wilson was so sick that he looked guilty, unforgivably guiltyas if he just got some poor girl with child"(124). "Oh, my Ga0od! Oh, my Ga-od!" Chapter 8 "I have a way of finding out"(158). "God knows what you've been doing, everything you've been doing. You may fool me, but you can't fool God!(159). "God sees everything"(160). "Like that ashen, fantastic figure gliding toward him through the amorphous trees"(161).	 The words used to describe George, as well as his actions, reveal that he is a lifeless man. He is described as "spiritless" and "anaemic", words that suggest that he has no power. He also defers to Tom and is bossed around by Myrtle, further revealing he is powerless. Chapter 7-8 George continues to be portrayed in a beat-down fashion. He is described as "sick" before his wife's death and is seen wailing after her death. Though his actions are appropriate in the circumstance, they cause him to look weak here. In chapter 8, George has taken on a new role in this bookone of the distributer of justice, justice for the wrongs committed in this book. He, a character who until now has remained virtually unsullied, is 	 The author seems to maintain both a sympathetic attitude toward George (he is the receiver of all the dominance), as well as a frustrated attitude toward his inability to do anything about his situation. Chapter 7-8 The author's attitude toward George remains sympathetic, as he looks like the grieving widow in this chapter. Allowing him to have these human emotions, also allows the reader to understand his actions against Gatsby. The connection between George and God helps create, if not a positive attitude toward George, then a sympathetic one.



		linked with the image of God	
		throughout this chapter. This	
		connection with the ultimate moral	
		judge provides George with this role	
		in the final chapters.	
	Chapter 4	Chapter 4	Chapter 4
	"A small, flat-nosed Jew raised his	 Wolfsheim's description is full of 	The author's attitude toward the
	large head and regarded me with two	language that connotes danger. His	character of Wolfsheim is one of
	fine growths of hair which luxuriated	"large head," "tiny eyes,"	danger. He portrays Wolfsheim as
	in either nostril. After a moment I	"ferocious" eating habits, and	a predatory animal, looking for his
	discovered his tiny eyes in the half-	darting eyes all suggest an animal	next "gonnegtion." He uses
	darkness."	(wolf) like quality. This creates the	Wolfsheim's criminal nature as a
		image of a dangerous character.	way to highlight Gatsby's own
	"I can't forget so long as I live the	Wolfsheim's mentions the death of	possible criminal leanings.
	night they shot Rosy Rosenthal there."	Rosy Rosenthal, a "business	Therefore, Wolfsheim's dark
	Inglie they shot head, head have the	gonnegtion." Gatsby also mentions	characterization should provide the
Meyer Wolfsheim	"I understand you are looking for a	that Wolfsheim "fixed the 1919	reader with a hint of Gatsby's own
	business gonnegtion."	World Series." All of these details	criminal nature. This criminal
	Services Berninger	about the character of Wolfsheim	nature is exactly the opposite of
	"A succulent hash arrived, and Mr.	suggest that he is a criminal with a	the well-bred man Gatsby claims to
	Wolfsheim, forgetting the more	nefarious background.	be.
	sentimental atmosphere of the old	Chapter 8	Chapter 8
	Metropole, began to eat with	The negative characteristics	Meyer is portrayed by the author
	ferocious delicacy. His eyes,	associated with Meyer continue in	to be a negative character
	meanwhile, roved very slowly all	this chapter as he refuses to attend	throughout. He is proven to be
	around the room-he completed the	Gatsby's funeral, even though he	selfish in this chapter because he
	arc by turning to inspect the people	lauds himself a friend.	does not attend the funeral.



r	directly behind. I think that, except for my presence, he would have taken one short glance beneath our table." 'He's the man who fixed the World's	Choosing to have Meyer make such a bad choice reveals the author's negative attitude toward this character.
	Series back in 1919." Chapter 9 'I raised him up out of nothing, right out of the gutter" (171). 'I can't do itI can't get mixed up in t" (171).	
	"When a man gets killed I never like to get mixed up in it in any way. I keep out. When I was a young man it was differentif a friend of mine died, no matter how, I stuck with them to the end. You may think that's sentimental, but I mean itto the pitter end" (171).	