

November 2020 - Book to Movie Book Club
The Great Gatsby
by F. Scott Fitzgerald

1. This book is infused with symbolism, particularly the green light at which Jay Gatsby gazes so intently, and the eyes of Dr. Eckleburg on the billboard. What do these symbols suggest? (Symbolic meanings are fluid, not fixed; they often mean different things to different observers/readers.)
2. How does Fitzgerald foreshadow the tragedies at the end?
3. Is Jay Gatsby great? In other words, is Fitzgerald's title sincere...or ironic?
4. Discuss the four main characters. Who, if any, do you find most sympathetic? Most important, in what way do the events of the novel affect Nick Carraway? How, or to what degree, does he change? (Some see this work as a coming-of-age story.)
5. What statement might Fitzgerald be making about the mores or ethos of American culture—particularly the American Dream?
6. Does the novel critique or uphold the values of the Jazz Age and the fears of the Lost Generation?
7. Compare and contrast the districts of West Egg and East Egg. Discuss.
8. Compare and contrast Gatsby's social class with that of Tom and Daisy Buchanan. How does geography contribute to the definition of social class in *The Great Gatsby*?
9. What makes *The Great Gatsby* a classic novel? Why has it maintained its place in American literature?
10. Have you seen any of the movie adaptations of *The Great Gatsby*? How did seeing a film portrayal of *The Great Gatsby* change your thoughts about the characters, the setting, or the story?
11. In the 1974 movie adaptation, Mia Farrow as Daisy tells this story: "And when I was in the delivery room, waking up from the ether, I asked the nurse whether it was a boy or a girl. She said it was a girl – and I turned my head to the side and cried. And then I said, I hope she grows up to be a pretty little fool. That's about the best a girl can hope for these days, to be a pretty little fool." How had the hopes for a baby girl changed between *The Great Gatsby*'s publication in 1925 and the filming of the 1974 movie? How have the hopes for a baby girl changed from 1925 to today?