

EXPLORE Made of illusions

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DIFFÉRENCIATION

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Audio version

The story takes place in the 1920s during the Prohibition, when alcohol was banned in the US. It is told through the eyes of Nick Carraway who watches his rich neighbour Jay Gatsby throw big parties to win back his old love Daisy.

Excerpt 1

'I want you and Daisy to come over to my house,' [Gatsby] said, 'I'd like to show her around.' [...]

We went upstairs, through period bedrooms swathed¹ in rose and lavender silk and vivid with new flowers, through dressing rooms and poolrooms, and bathrooms with sunken² baths— [...]

Finally we came to Gatsby's own apartment, a bedroom and a bath and an Adam study, where we sat down and drank a glass of some Chartreuse he took from a cupboard in the wall. [...]

He took out a pile of shirts and began throwing them, one by one before us, shirts of sheer³ linen and thick silk and fine flannel which lost their folds as they fell and covered the table in many-colored disarray⁴. [...]

After the house, we were to see the grounds and the swimming pool, and the hydroplane and the midsummer flowers—but outside Gatsby's window it began to rain again so we stood in a row looking at the corrugated surface of the Sound⁵. 'If it wasn't for the mist we could see your home across the bay,' said Gatsby. 'You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock.'

1. wrapped up 2. enfoncé dans le sol 3. pure 4. disorder 5. baie qui sépare la maison de Gatsby de celle de Daisy

Excerpt 2

'She's not leaving me!' Tom's words suddenly leaned down over Gatsby.

'Certainly not for a common swindler¹ who'd have to steal the ring he put on her finger.'

'I won't stand this!' cried Daisy. 'Oh, please let's get out.'



'Who are you, anyhow?' broke out Tom. 'You're one of that bunch that hangs around with Meyer Wolfsheimer—that much I happen to know. I've made a little investigation into your affairs—and I'll carry it further tomorrow.'

'You can suit yourself about that, old sport²,' said Gatsby steadily.

'I found out what your 'drug stores' were.' He turned to us and spoke rapidly.

'He and this Wolfsheimer bought up a lot of side-street drug stores here and in Chicago and sold grain alcohol over the counter. That's one of his little stunts³. I picked him for a bootlegger the first time I saw him and I wasn't far wrong.'

1. escroc 2. mon vieux 3. combines

Excerpt 3

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic¹ future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded² us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther... And one fine morning—

So we beat on³, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

1. ecstatic 2. échapper 3. move on despite difficulties

F. Scott FITZGERALD, *The Great Gatsby*, 1925

WAY 1

1. a. Look at the text and identify:

- The author:
- The title:
- The date of publication:

b. What type of text is it? Tick the correct answer.

- ☐ a movie script ☐ a diary ☐ a novel ☐ a short story

2. a. Read the introduction and pick out information about the story.

- Time and place:

b. Match each description with one of the main characters.

- He is a rich man:
- He is the narrator of the story:
- She was once in love with Gatsby:

Excerpt 1

3. a. Read the excerpt and **complete** the sentence with the correct word.

In this scene, Gatsby proudly his house to Nick and Daisy.

b. Pay attention to enumerations and **fill in** the table with words from the text.

Rooms	Materials	Possessions
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c. Circle the words that best describe Gatsby and his lifestyle.

wealth
excess generosity
simplicity freedom
tradition materialism

4. Focus on the symbol of the "green light" (1.20) and **say** what it may represent. You can use some of the words below.

dream • hope • desire • ideal • illusion

The green light may symbolise
because

Excerpt 2

5. a. Read the excerpt and **say** how the characters are related.

- Tom and Daisy:
- Gatsby and Wolfshiem:

b. Pick out a quote which describes Gatsby's activities. **Rephrase** it in your own words.

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Excerpt 3

6. a. Read the excerpt and **match** each quote with its meaning.

1. "the orgasmic future that year by year recedes before us" (1.1-2) •
 2. "we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther" (1.3-4) •
 3. "boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" (1.5-6) •
- struggle against time and reality
 - something desirable but constantly moving away conveying disillusionment
 - relentless efforts and ambition

b. Sum up the main ideas of the excerpt. Use the following words or expressions.

the American Dream • illusion • embody • money • happiness • disillusionment

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1. Look at the text and the source. **Say** what type of text it is.

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2. Read the introduction and **pick out** information about:

- The setting: in the 1920s, during Prohibition, when alcohol was banned in the US
- Character 1: • His/Her role:
- Character 2: • His/Her role:
- Character 3: • His/Her role:

Excerpt 1

3. a. Read the text and briefly **sum up** the scene.

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b. Pick out enumerations in the text and **organise** them in three categories.

- Category 1:
- Category 2:
- Category 3:

c. Sum up what this scene shows about Gatsby and his lifestyle.

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4. Focus on l.20-21 and explain how the “green light” may symbolise the American Dream.

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Excerpt 2

5. a. Read the excerpt and **describe** how the characters are related.

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b. Look at the word “bootlegger” (l.17). **Identify** the two parts of the word and **guess** what it says about Gatsby in the context.

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Excerpt 3

6.a. Read the excerpt and **pick out** one quote that illustrates each of the following feelings.

- Ambition: “we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther” (l. 3-4)
- Struggle: “boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” (l.5-6)
- Disillusionment: “the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us” (l.1-2)

b. Sum up the vision of the American Dream presented in these three excerpts.

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