ENGLISH 10 · NOVEL ONE-PAGER

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald · 1925

“So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

Ch. 9 · the novel's last line: the past keeps pulling Gatsby back.



“I hope she'll be a fool, that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.”

Ch. 1 · Daisy on her daughter: what the world rewards in women.

THEME

The American Dream curdles when it is about money and status instead of the dream itself.

SYMBOL

The green light: everything Gatsby wants, always across the water, never quite in reach.

SETTING

Long Island, summer 1922: old money in East Egg, new money in West Egg, ash in between.

KEY CHARACTERS

- **Jay Gatsby**: reinvents himself to win Daisy back
- **Daisy Buchanan**: charming, careless, chooses safety
- **Nick Carraway**: narrator, half inside, half judging
- **Tom Buchanan**: old money, power without conscience

“Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!”

Ch. 6 · Gatsby's whole tragedy in one sentence.

MY CONNECTION

Social media makes it easy to build a "Gatsby" version of yourself. The book asks who that version is really for.

Big question: Is Gatsby great, or just loyal to a dream that was never real?