

THE GREAT GATSBY

INTRODUCTION

The *Great Gatsby* is Francis Scott Fitzgerald's (1896 – 1940) masterpiece. This great American author depicted the glamorous and superficial times of the "Roaring Twenties" better than any other writer of his time.

This is the story of a self-made American millionaire, Jay Gatsby, with a mysterious past who gives fabulous parties in his beautiful mansion. Gatsby is desperately seeking the woman he has never stopped loving – Daisy. The wild and exhilarating atmosphere of the "Roaring Twenties" and the American Dream pervade every moment of this exceptional story.

PREDICTION – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

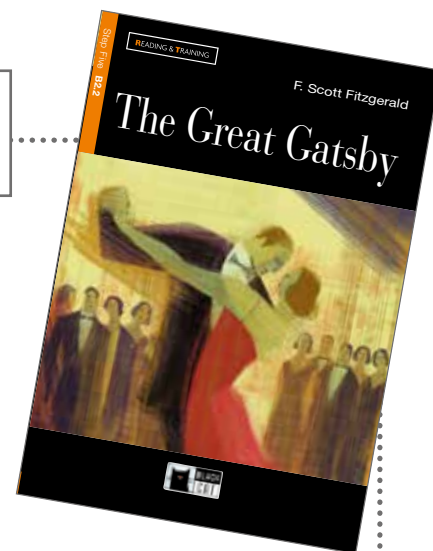
- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. No one really knows who Jay Gatsby is or where he comes from . | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. Jay Gatsby is an undercover agent for the American government. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. Daisy does not know that Gatsby is deeply in love with her. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. Daisy and Gatsby never meet in the story. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. Gatsby's money was earned illegally. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Mark your answers and when you finish reading the story, check them to see if you predicted correctly.



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY 2/6



READING ACTIVITY

Part 1 – Read the excerpt and then do the activities below.

■ The story is told by Nick Carraway, a friend of Gatsby.

On Long Island there are two unusual formations of land that look almost like two eggs and are separated by the bay.

I lived at West Egg, the less fashionable of the two. My house was between two huge houses, near the sea. The one on my right was colossal. It was an imitation of a French palace with a tower on one side, a splendid swimming pool and beautiful lawns and gardens. It was Mr Gatsby's home. My home was ugly and small, but I had a view of the water, of part of my neighbor's lawn and I lived near millionaires, all for eighty dollars a month.

Across the bay the white palaces of the fashionable East Egg shone on the water. The history of the summer really begins on the day I went to have dinner with Tom and Daisy Buchanan. Daisy was my second cousin and I had known Tom in college.

Tom was one of the most powerful football players New Haven University had ever had. His family was extremely wealthy. Now he had left Chicago and had come East, bringing his own polo horses with him. It was hard to imagine that a man of my own age was so rich.

I don't know why they came East. They had spent a year in France for no particular reason and then drifted¹ here and there, wherever people played polo and were rich.

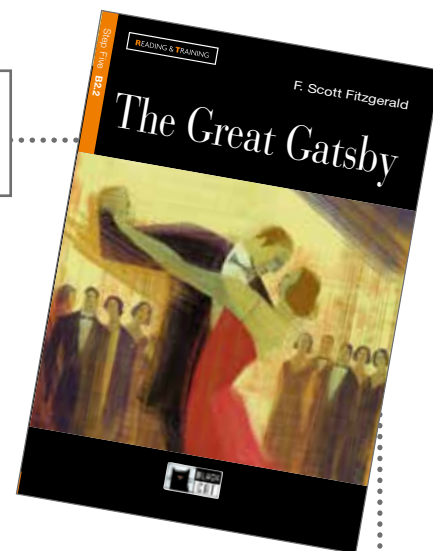
1 **drifted** : moved about without a reason or purpose



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY

3/6



2. Choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

- Nick lived in
 - East Egg.
 - West Egg.
 - New Haven.
- Mr Gatsby's home was
 - in fashionable East Egg.
 - an imitation of a French palace.
 - ugly and small.
- Nick's rent cost him
 - eighty dollars a month.
 - eight dollars a month.
 - eighteen dollars a month.
- Daisy Buchanan was
 - Nick's sweetheart.
 - Tom's wife.
 - Gatsby's second cousin.
- Tom had gone to New Haven University
 - but never graduated.
 - and played polo there.
 - and played football there.
- Daisy and Tom had spent a year
 - in France.
 - in Chicago.
 - in the East.

QUICK QUIZ!

3. Circle the correct word.

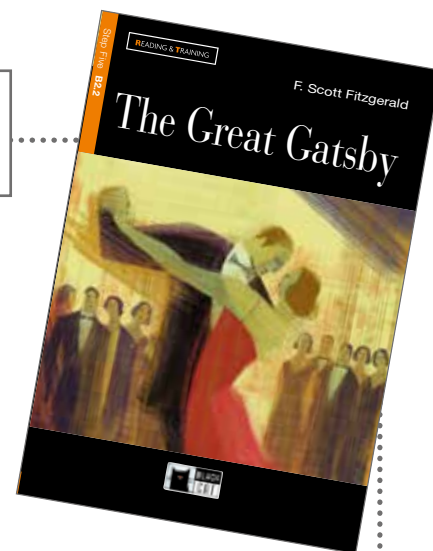
- Tom Buchanan had *much/many* polo horses.
- Tom's family was *much/very* rich.
- There were too *many/much* millionaires at the party.
- How *much/many* money does Jay Gatsby have?
- There weren't *many/much* guests at the big party.
- Nick was *very/many* worried about his new job in new York City.



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY

4/6



PART 2

Read the excerpt and then do the activity below.

Nick has been invited to one of Gatsby's big parties, and he's looking for the host of the party, Jay Gatsby, since he has never seen him.

I turned again to my new friend. "This is an unusual party for me. I haven't seen the host. I live over there—" and I waved my hand toward my house, "and this man Gatsby sent over his driver with an invitation.'

'I'm Gatsby," he said suddenly.

"What!" I exclaimed. "Oh, I'm so sorry!"

"I thought you knew, old sport.¹ I'm afraid I'm not a very good host."

He smiled understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of reassurance² in it that you see four or five times in your life. Then the smile vanished and I was looking at an elegant young man, a year or two over thirty, whose formal way of speaking was almost absurd.

At this moment a butler informed him that Chicago was calling him on the telephone.

"Excuse me. I will join you later."

When he was gone I turned immediately to Jordan to tell her of my surprise. I had expected Gatsby to be a robust, older man.

"Who is he?" I demanded.

"He's just a man named Gatsby."

"Where is he from? What does he do?"

"Now you're on the subject," she said with a weak smile. "Well, he told me once that he had been to Oxford University, but I don't believe it.'

"Why not?"

'I don't know. I just don't think he went there."

"If someone had told me that Gatsby came from the swamps³ of Louisiana or the lower East Side of New York, I would have believed it. But I couldn't believe that a young man can come from nowhere and buy a palace on Long Island."

1 **old sport** : "boy", "man", "friend"

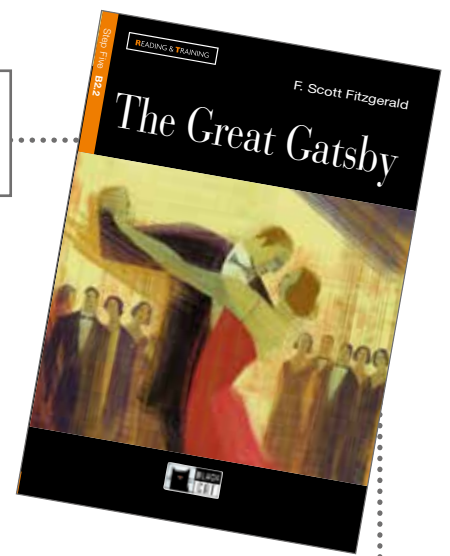
2 **reassurance** : encouragement, comfort

3 **swamps** : soft, wet lands with much vegetation, insects and reptiles.



READING ACTIVITY

5/6



ODD ONE OUT!

4A. Circle the word that doesn't belong to the group.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. unusual | different | odd | ordinary |
| 2. appear | vanish | depart | disappear |
| 3. butler | driver | friend | maid |
| 4. Chicago | America | New York City | San Francisco |
| 5. desert | swamp | forest | wood |
| 6. palace | mansion | church | residence |

4B. Complete the sentences with the odd word.

- Nick was a of Tom Buchanan.
- The climate in the was very hot.
- The cheapest tickets are the ones.
- The ghost will on Halloween Night!
- There are 50 states in
- The children always went to on Sunday.

QUICK QUIZ!

5. Complete the sentence with the correct word: WHO or WHICH

- He looked at his new friend was elegantly dressed.
- The invitation the driver brought Nick was written by Gatsby.
- The girls were invited to the party were all young and pretty.
- The mansions were built on Long Island belonged to the richest families.
- " road should I take to get to West Egg?" asked Nick.

