

Why you should read The Great Gatsby...

1. Fitzgerald's writing is lyrical – he is able to paint a scene by using lush imagery as well as express the subtle nuances of human nature.
2. Gatsby is an unforgettable, tragic character who represents the best and worst of our American nature.
3. Fitzgerald writes a cautionary tale about the “American dream” that still resonates today.
4. Nick Carraway, the narrator, recounts the events of one crazy summer in such an engaging and ironic manner, the reader feels an instant kinship with Nick.
5. Short and accessible!! It is possible to read in one sitting with an investment of only 3 or 4 hours.

Why you may struggle with The Great Gatsby...

1. Similar to Nick Carraway (the narrator), at the end we are left feeling as if we have escaped a party that was too wild, too extravagant, and are left feeling exhausted and a bit jaded.
2. Fitzgerald's view of the “American dream” emphasizes what can result when individuals refuse to take responsibility for their actions and instead embrace the pursuit of pleasure.
3. Although short in length, the first half focuses on character development over plot. Most of the action of the novel occurs in chapter 5, so plot-lovers must be a little patient.