The Great Gatsby

**Study Guide**

**Chapter I - Vocabulary**

1. abortive – fruitless; cut short
2. abruptly – suddenly
3. acute – sharp; keen
4. audible – able to be heard
5. banns – public announcement of a proposed marriage
6. ceased – stopped
7. coherence – clarity
8. compelled – drove; forced
9. complacency – self-satisfaction
10. conferred – bestowed
11. contemptuous – disdainful
12. contour – shape
13. conviction – certain belief
14. corroborated – confirmed
15. deft – skillful
16. divan – couch
17. elations – joys
18. epigram – short, witty poem or saying
19. erect – upright
20. extemporizing – improvising
21. fervent – intensely glowing
22. fractiousness – quarrelsomeness
23. hardy – tough
24. imperatively – commandingly
25. incredulously – skeptically
26. infinitesimal – incalculably small
27. intimation – hint
28. irrelevant – wholly unimportant
29. languidly – sluggishly
30. levity – lightness; frivolousness
31. parcelled – given; measured
32. paternal – fatherly
33. peremptorily – urgently; commandingly
34. pessimist – negative thinker
35. preceded – went before
36. prominent – at the forefront; well-known
37. proximity – nearness
38. pungent – strong-smelling
39. reciprocal – returned
40. riotous – exuberant
41. rotogravure – old method of developing photographs
42. sedative – calming
43. submerged – put under
44. supercilious – coolly haughty
45. superficial – shallow; surface-level
46. tangible – solid; touchable
47. turbulent – disturbed; in commotion
48. unaffected – natural
49. uninflected – toneless; unaccented
50. unobtrusively – without getting in the way
51. vigil – watch
52. wan – pale; sickly
53. In Chapter One we meet the narrator, Nick Carraway. These first four paragraphs serve as a prologue that introduces the rest of the story. What information does Nick give us about himself in this prologue?
54. What does Nick say is “gorgeous” about Gatsby? (Find the quotation in the fourth paragraph.)
55. In the same paragraph, Nick tells us of his disillusionment with mankind. In your opinion, is it Gatsby or something else that causes this disillusionment? (Be prepared to defend and/or explain your answer.)
56. What is Nick’s socio-economic background?
57. When Nick returns from the war, why does he decide to go East?
58. The action in this story takes place over the course of one summer. What occurs that makes Nick feel that his life is beginning over again?
59. How is West Egg different from East Egg?
60. Before meeting him, what do we learn of Tom Buchanan?
61. Find the words used to describe Daisy’s most noticeable feature.
62. At this point, what is your opinion of Daisy?
63. Daisy says, “Tom’s getting very profound.” What do you think her tone might have been? Present support for your answer.
64. At this point, why does Nick observe, “There was something pathetic in his [Tom’s] concentration…”?
65. We find out that Tom has a woman in New York. What unflattering feature of Jordan Baker’s personality is revealed?
66. When the telephone rings a second time, why does Nick say, “No one was able utterly to put this fifth guest’s shrill metallic urgency out of mind”?
67. Why is Nick’s instinct “to telephone immediately for the police”?
68. What three sentences indicate that Nick thinks Daisy’s cynical outburst is fake?
69. What is the reader left to think about Daisy’s emotional state and her relationship with Tom?
70. Who is Jordan Baker, and what has Nick heard about her?
71. As Nick drives away from their house, he experiences a number of conflicting emotions. Why does he feel touched? Why does he feel confused and disgusted?
72. At the end of this chapter, Nick sees Gatsby on the lawn and is about to call to him but does not. What stops him? What does Gatsby’s “trembling” suggest?
73. The green light that Gatsby is staring at is mentioned several more times, and it assumes a symbolic significance. Where do you think the green light might be?
74. The differences between the East (the East Coast, particularly New York) and the Midwest (Minneapolis, Louisville, and Chicago) are mentioned frequently. What does Nick say about each?