



# The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

A short, lyrical American classic about longing, reinvention, and the ache beneath glittering parties. Perfect for a slow, cozy night of conversation.

**Reading level:** Moderate

**Best for:** Clubs who love beautiful sentences and slow, heartfelt conversation

## Discussion

### WARM-UP

1. What was the weather, the snack, or the chair like while you were reading this one? Set the scene for us.
2. Was this a first read or a revisit, and what feeling did you carry from the very first chapter?

### DIGGING IN

1. Nick is the kind of narrator who sits next to you and quietly tells a story. Did his voice feel like good company, and what did it remind you of?
2. The book is full of parties, lights, and music from far away. Was there a scene that felt warm and inviting to you, even if the people in it weren't entirely happy?
3. So much of the story is about missing something or someone from the past. What did the book stir up for you about your own memories or old longings?
4. Long Island summers, drives into the city, hot afternoons in stuffy rooms. Which setting did you most want to step into, and which one made you want to close the windows and stay home?

### GOING DEEP

1. Gatsby spends the whole book reaching for something. When in your own life have you felt that kind of hopeful, almost tender reaching, and how do you look back on it now?
2. If you could sit with one character in your coziest spot, with tea and no agenda, who would you invite and what would you gently want to ask them?

## On the table

### **Mini grilled cheese with tomato soup shooters**

A 1920s diner comfort, scaled down for snacking during a long talk

### **Deviled eggs**

A classic party tray nod to Gatsby's gatherings, but homey instead of fussy

### **Lemon pound cake with whipped cream**

Buttery and golden, like the warm summer light that runs through the book

## To sip

### **French 75 (gin, lemon, bubbly)**

An era-appropriate sparkler that still feels gentle and celebratory

### **Hot honey-lemon toddy**

Soothing speakeasy comfort in a mug for a slow evening

### **Sparkling lemonade with mint and raspberry (no alcohol)**

All the glamour of a coupe glass, none of the alcohol

# Run of show

<b>7:00</b>	<b>Soft landing</b> Low lamps, jazz on quietly, toddies and lemonade ready as people drift in
<b>7:20</b>	<b>Snack and settle</b> Plate up the grilled cheese and deviled eggs, let folks chat informally
<b>7:40</b>	<b>Warm-up questions</b> Move to the cozy seating circle and use the two warmups to ease in
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Heart of the talk</b> Work through the theme questions, no need to hit them all, follow the warmth
<b>8:45</b>	<b>Dessert and deep questions</b> Bring out the pound cake and slow into the two deep questions
<b>9:15</b>	<b>Scorecards and send-off</b> Fill out scorecards together, share one-word reactions, hand out bookmarks

## HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low and layered, lamps and candles rather than overhead lights
- Have a soft throw or two on the couch so guests can actually curl up
- It's okay to let silences sit, this vibe rewards thinking out loud slowly

## Playlist

*Soft jazz age standards and dreamy modern covers, played low under conversation*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 01 Dream a Little Dream of Me - Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong | 02 The Way You Look Tonight - Fred Astaire |
| 03 Cheek to Cheek - Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong             | 04 Moonlight Serenade - Glenn Miller       |
| 05 A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square - Nat King Cole            | 06 Young and Beautiful - Lana Del Rey      |
| 07 La Vie en Rose - Louis Armstrong                                 | 08 Stardust - Hoagy Carmichael             |

## Trivia

1. In what year was *The Great Gatsby* first published? (1925)
2. What U.S. state is the fictional West Egg located in? (New York (Long Island))
3. What was F. Scott Fitzgerald's full first and middle name? (Francis Scott (Key) Fitzgerald)
4. Fitzgerald named his son after which famous American figure, whose name he also shared? (Francis Scott Key, writer of *The Star-Spangled Banner*)
5. What broad cultural era is the novel most associated with? (The Jazz Age / the Roaring Twenties)
6. Who narrates the novel? (Nick Carraway)
7. In what Midwestern city was F. Scott Fitzgerald born? (Saint Paul, Minnesota)
8. What was the name of Fitzgerald's wife, also a writer and icon of the era? (Zelda Fitzgerald)

## Rate the book

Coziness of prose

☆☆☆☆☆

Emotional warmth

☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere and mood

☆☆☆☆☆

Characters you'd have tea with

☆☆☆☆☆

Lingering feeling

☆☆☆☆☆

One word for this book: \_\_\_\_\_

A scene I'd reread on a rainy night: \_\_\_\_\_

Who I want to hand this book to next: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU'RE INVITED

### An Old Sport Sort of Evening

Come over for soft jazz, grilled cheese, and a slow chat about The Great Gatsby. Slippers welcome, opinions optional.



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