

Comprehension Questions for *The Great Gatsby*:

In general: keep track of the rumours about Gatsby.

Chapter 1 (22 pages):

What do we learn about the narrator's (Nick's) background and current life?
What seems to be associated with the word "East"?
What do we learn about Tom and Daisy's marriage?
What does Nick think about Tom, Daisy and their marriage?
What is Gatsby doing at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2 (16 pages):

What is the Valley of ashes?
Whose eyes are described? What is that?
Who is Wilson? How is he described?
How is Mrs. Wilson described?
What do we learn about Tom and Daisy's marriage?
How does the whiskey affect Nick? How does he feel?

Chapter 3 (22 pages):

How does Nick experience Gatsby's lifestyle?
What surprises the man in the library? What does it mean that Gatsby "knew when to stop"?
What does Nick say about New York?

Chapter 4 (21 pages):

What is "so peculiarly American" about Gatsby?
Is Gatsby telling the truth?
Why doesn't Gatsby get a speeding ticket?
Who is Wolfsheim and what is his connection to Gatsby?
What is special about Wolfsheim's cuff buttons?
What impression does Jordan give of Daisy's life with Tom?
What happens between Jordan and the Nick?

Chapter 5 (16 pages):

Why doesn't Nick accept Gatsby's job offer?
How is Gatsby doing while waiting for Daisy's arrival?
Why don't Gatsby, Daisy and Nick take the short cut into Gatsby's house?
Name the three "states" Gatsby passes through.
Why has the significance of the green light disappeared?
Why is Gatsby so enchanted by Daisy's voice according to Nick?

Chapter 6 (15 pages):

What does the reporter want?
What is Gatsby's real name?
Who is Dan Cody and what is his relation to Gatsby?
What is Tom's opinion of Gatsby?
What does Tom think of Gatsby's guests?
How is this party different?
Why doesn't Daisy like West Egg?
What does Gatsby desire of Daisy?

Chapter 7 (34 pages):

Why does Gatsby fire his servants?

What is the weather like?

What does Tom realize?

What does it mean that Daisy's voice is "full of money"?

Why does Wilson want to buy Tom's car?

Why does Tom drive so erratically?

Why do they all end up at the Plaza Hotel?

According to Tom how has Gatsby made his money?

How does Nick feel about his birthday?

What happens to Myrtle? Why did she run into the road?

What do you think Tom and Daisy are talking about at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 8 (17 pages):

Why does Gatsby's house feel different?

What was the problem when Gatsby met Daisy as a young man?

What does it mean that he was following a grail?

Why did Daisy begin to date other men?

What is the weather like and what time of year is it (not in the flashback)?

Why is there a dog leash in Wilson's drawer?

Why is Wilson being watched all night?

What is it he refers to as "God"?

What does it mean that "the holocaust was complete"?

Chapter 9 (19 pages):

Why is Nick "alone" on Gatsby's side and what is he "responsible" for?

Why does the caller from Chicago hang up?

What is Mr. Gatz feeling?

Why does Nick hang up on Klipspringer?

Why does Mr. Wolfsheim decline to attend the funeral?

What is it that Gatsby's schedule "shows [us]"

Who attends the funeral?

What does it mean to be "unadaptable to Eastern life"?

How does Nick describe West Egg/the East?

Why does Nick erase the word on the stairs?

What does it mean that Gatsby's dream "was already behind him"?

How do you understand the final sentence?