

Comprehension Check: Chapters 1-3

Directions: Use the following questions to help guide your reading and understanding of Chapters 1-3. As you read the novel, answer the questions using complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. From what point of view is the story being told? In what tense?
2. Chapter 1 begins with a quote: "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." What does this quote mean? What conclusions/predictions can you make about the narrator from this quote?
3. List 5-7 important details that we learn about the narrator from this chapter.
4. How does Nick compare East and West Egg. Who is Nick's neighbor?
5. Describe Tom.
6. Describe Daisy.
7. What do we learn about Tom from the phone call?
8. What does Daisy mean when she says "And I hope she'll be a fool--that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool"?
9. Describe Tom and Daisy's relationship.
10. What does Nick see at the end of Chapter 1? What dramatic effect does this last image impart?

Chapter 2

1. Describe the Valley of Ashes. What might the ashes symbolize?
2. What might the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleberg represent or symbolize?
3. Describe Tom's girl.
4. Compare/contrast the personalities and physical characteristics of Myrtle and Daisy.
5. Why do you think Tom is attracted to Myrtle?
6. What is the lie Tom told Catherine? Why do you think he lied?
7. Describe Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's relationship.
8. How did Tom and Myrtle meet?
9. What does Tom do to Myrtle when she says Daisy's name?
10. Why is the ending of Chapter 2 so disjointed? What had Nick been doing all evening that might have caused this strange narrative?

Chapter 3

1. What arrives at Gatsby's house every Friday? What leaves on Monday? What does this tell you about the parties Gatsby hosts?
2. How does Nick receive his invitation to Gatsby's party?
3. What illegal activity takes place at Gatsby's party?
4. What kind of relationship has Jordan developed with the other guests at the party?
5. What discovery has the Owl-Eyed man made in Gatsby's library? What symbolic meaning could this reference have about society in the 1920's?
6. What is ironic about Jordan's statement comparing large and small parties?
7. On what does Owl-Eyes blame the accident after Gatsby's party? What is ironic about his claim?