

# The Great Gatsby - Chapter 1 Review

Alright... so if you just started reading this book, you probably have no idea what's going on. The book is written in first-person with Nick Carraway being the narrator. There are a lot of complicated words and sentences that are just... "they do the most." But they help set the plot and the mood of what is yet to come. Let me break it down for you:

## Chronological Summary

1. Nick Carraway has returned to the Midwest after fighting in World War I
2. He is "restless," which means he is finding life to be a bit boring
3. He decided to move east and join the bond business - a job that posts bail for someone who is accused of a crime if that person cannot afford it.
4. He found a house to split the rent with some guy, but that guy bounced on him and Nick was left to pay for it alone.
5. Nick lives in West Egg, which is called that because the land is in the shape of an egg and juts out into the ocean. West Egg seems more "raggedy" than East Egg.
6. He pays \$80 a month for his house and his house was in between two giant mansions that go for \$12,000 to \$15,000 a month.
7. If you stand near the shore on the end of the egg, you can see West Egg, which just looks so much better.
8. His cousin Daisy lives in West Egg with her husband Tom Buchannon and Nick was set to go visit them for dinner.
9. Tom pretty much lectures Nick (remember that Nick is the narrator) on many topics, including how humanity is sinking and that the Nordic race (white) must reclaim their dominance.
10. Besides Tom and Daisy, Nick is introduced to Jordan Baker, who is a professional golfer and is somewhat famous.
11. The phone rings twice during dinner and the butler says it's for Tom. Jordan reveals the Nick that it is Tom's mistress - he cheats on Daisy.
12. Nick and Daisy have an intimate conversation and Daisy reveals that she was upset at having a girl at first because she says the best thing a girl can be is a fool.

13. Nick goes home after a very uncomfortable and bizarre dinner.

14. Nick looks at Gatsby (he doesn't know him at all) and sees that he is standing in front of the ocean looking towards a green light across.

## Characters

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nick Carraway   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finds the Midwest boring</li><li>• Moves East to be a bondsman</li><li>• Has a "shabby" house</li><li>• Finds the dinner to be awkward</li><li>• Appears inferior to the others</li></ul>        |
| Daisy Buchannon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loves to talk</li><li>• Knows about Tom's affair</li><li>• Seems excited all of the time</li></ul>                                                                                               |
| Tom Buchannon   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A strong man with a rough voice</li><li>• Believes he is superior to Nick</li><li>• Very rich with a big house and a huge lawn</li><li>• Reads a lot of books on race</li></ul>                  |
| Jordan Baker    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appears to be cocky</li><li>• Pro Golfer</li><li>• Not much of a talker</li><li>• Reveals to Nick about the affair</li><li>• Mentions Gatsby to Nick - Nick learns who his neighbor is</li></ul> |

## Important quotes

|       |                                                                                   |          |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Tom   | "...just because I'm stronger and more of a man than you are."                    | Arrogant |
| Daisy | "You see I think everything's terrible anyhow..."                                 | Sadness  |
| Daisy | "... that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." | Sadness  |
| Nick  | "You make me feel uncivilized, Daisy."                                            | Awkward  |