



## Key Quotes with Analysis

### The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Purpose:** This sheet helps you understand major quotes, their meanings, and their significance in the novel, making it easier to connect characters, themes, and events.

#### 1. “Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you can!”

- **Context:** Jay Gatsby says this to Nick Carraway while discussing his love for Daisy.
- **Meaning:** Gatsby believes he can recreate the love and life he once had with Daisy.
- **Why It Matters:** This shows Gatsby’s obsession with the past and his refusal to accept reality.
- **Theme Connection:** The impossibility of repeating the past; idealism vs. reality; obsession with dreams.

#### 2. “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

- **Context:** The closing line of the novel, narrated by Nick.
- **Meaning:** Despite progress and ambition, people are always influenced by the past.

- **Why It Matters:** It summarizes the novel's central idea that time and the past shape our lives.
- **Theme Connection:** Time and memory; the persistence of the past; the American Dream.

### 3. "I hope she'll be a fool — that's the best thing a girl can be in this world."

- **Context:** Daisy says this about her daughter while talking to Jordan Baker.
- **Meaning:** Daisy believes ignorance will protect her child from the harsh realities of society.
- **Why It Matters:** Reveals Daisy's shallow worldview and the role of women in 1920s high society.
- **Theme Connection:** Gender roles; social expectations; the fragility of innocence.

### 4. "They're a rotten crowd... You're worth the whole damn bunch put together."

- **Context:** Nick says this to Gatsby after observing the Buchanans and their friends.
- **Meaning:** Nick admires Gatsby's sincerity despite the superficiality of the wealthy elite.
- **Why It Matters:** Highlights Gatsby's moral integrity versus the emptiness of the upper class.
- **Theme Connection:** Social class; morality; integrity vs. superficiality.

## 5. “Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us.”

- **Context:** Nick reflects on Gatsby’s dream and ambition.
- **Meaning:** The green light represents hope and the desire for a better life that always seems just out of reach.
- **Why It Matters:** Symbolizes Gatsby’s relentless pursuit of his dream and the broader American Dream.
- **Theme Connection:** Dreams and ambition; hope; the allure and illusion of the American Dream.

## 6. “Her voice is full of money.”

- **Context:** Gatsby says this about Daisy during one of their encounters.
- **Meaning:** Daisy’s charm and personality are inseparable from her wealth and social status.
- **Why It Matters:** Reveals the influence of money on relationships and attraction in the novel.
- **Theme Connection:** Wealth and social status; materialism; love versus financial security.

## 7. “I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life.”

- **Context:** Nick reflects on his experiences observing the rich in West Egg.

- Meaning: Nick feels both fascinated and alienated by the opulence and moral emptiness of the wealthy.
- Why It Matters: Shows Nick's dual perspective as narrator and participant, highlighting social critique.
- Theme Connection: Social observation; class and moral decay; narrator's perspective.

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