

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Reviewed by: Courtney Cheng, 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer for Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

It is the summer of 1922 when Nick Carraway decides to travel to the East from Minnesota. The day Nick chooses to meet up with his second cousin, Daisy Buchanan, he inadvertently brings himself into a twist of love affairs and disillusioned aspirations. Nick's neighbor, the king of "new money," Jay Gatsby, entreats Nick to help him become reacquainted with Daisy, who he fell in love with five years prior. Taught by his father to withhold judgment, Nick agrees to help his new friend, though he continues to observe all the happenings about him with great care. In a tragic ending, Nick discovers the fundamental differences between the East and the West and makes a realization about the sad truth of the American dream.

The Great Gatsby rightfully deserves its spot as one of the great American classics. Though the language and style of Fitzgerald's writing is initially hard to comprehend, the more one contemplates the deeper meanings of the novel, the greater its impact becomes. Fitzgerald employs characters whose personalities continue to appear in present day society allowing readers to better understand each one's motivations and actions. The story itself also finds similarities in many other films and books, all of different time periods.

Originally just another classic novel on the shelf, *The Great Gatsby* easily became one of the most relatable, thought-provoking books I've ever read. Beneath each character's unique goals is a rationale, not necessarily logical, but completely understandable. It was my first time reading this book a few weeks ago, but I already find myself itching to read it again, this time more able to pick out all the tiny, but significant, details Fitzgerald wove into his story to make it all the more fascinating and enjoyable. *The Great Gatsby* is a timeless piece of literature I would advise everyone to read at least once in their lifetimes.