

# The Great Gatsby: (c) Narration

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☞ refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine the narrative approach taken in the novel.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Discuss various novels which students have read, in terms of their narrative approaches.
  - Talk about the differences and the effects these have on the stories being told.
  - Try to think why each author has chosen the approaches they have.
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices)
  - ☞ (Aspects of literature > Aspects of narrative > Narrators)
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Students examine Chapter 6.
  - The chapter could be split up around the class, or other passages could be used as well.
  - They should list the information which they find, especially about Gatsby himself.
  - Then they should decide:
    - Which pieces of information they believe
    - Which they don't believe
    - Which they are not sure about.
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices > More voices: gossip and scandal)
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Synopses and commentary > Chapter 6)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Discuss the opinions formed in the textual exercise.
  - This could be done individually, then in small groups, then as a whole class, giving time for ideas to be formed and debated.
- What conclusions do students draw from their discussions about:
  - Gatsby?
  - Nick?
  - The novel as a whole?
- ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices > Nick as narrator)
- ☞ (Characters in *The Great Gatsby* > Nick's mediation)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Choose a suitable passage and rewrite it as Gatsby might tell that part of the story.
  - Students could exchange their pieces with each other, and discuss:
    - How they have approached this task
    - What has changed from the original.
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices > Gatsby as narrator)
- ❖ **Critical task:** How appropriate and effective is Nick Carraway as a narrator in this novel?
  - Use close textual reference in your answer.
  - ☞ (Characters in *The Great Gatsby* > Nick)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Explore the other voices apart from Nick's which are heard during the novel.
  - What do they add to Fitzgerald's overall effect?
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices > Other narrative voices)
  - ☞ (*The Great Gatsby*: Narrative devices > Gatsby as narrator)