













The Great Gatsby: (f) The ending

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 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine the final chapter of the novel and to discuss the type of ending provided by Fitzgerald.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Looking at the early part of Chapter 9, what do we learn of Gatsby from each of the following?
 - The call from Slagle
 - Gatsby's father
 - The call from Klipspringer
 - The visit to Meyer Wolfshiem
 - Gatsby's book
 - 'Nobody came'.
 -  (*The Great Gatsby: Synopses and commentary > Chapter 9*)
 -  (*The Great Gatsby: Narrative devices > Nick as narrator*)
- ❖ **Textual examination:**

Photocopy the sentences on **Worksheet f)i** (preferably onto card) and cut each sentence out separately. Distribute them around the class.

 - Each student should comment on their sentence(s) in whatever way they can. Look particularly at:
 - The style
 - Any link to another part of the novel
 - Any conclusions that may be drawn at this late stage of the novel.
 -  (*The Great Gatsby: Synopses and commentary > Chapter 9*)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Each student should report back on their sentence(s),
 - Comment from other students (and the teacher) should follow.
 -  (*The Great Gatsby > Imagery and symbolism*)
 -  (*The structure of The Great Gatsby > Retellings*)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Write the headline and report on Gatsby's death as it might appear in the local paper.
 -  (See *The Great Gatsby: Synopses and commentary > Chapter 9: note on 'racy pasquinade'*)
 - Consider what details would be included, and what might be reported as 'fact'.
 -  (*Themes in The Great Gatsby > Moral collapse*)
- ❖ **Critical task:** 'Gatsby turned out all right at the end.'
 - How far do you agree with Nick's assessment after reading his full account of Gatsby?
 - Do you think that Fitzgerald wants the reader to sympathise with Gatsby?
 -  (*Themes in The Great Gatsby > Idealism and disillusionment*)
 -  (*Themes in The Great Gatsby > Moral collapse > Death and judgement*)
 -  (*Characters in The Great Gatsby > Gatsby > Gatsby's role*)
- ❖ **Extension task:** How far does *The Great Gatsby* fit the genre of tragedy?
 - Compare it with other tragedies.
 - Is Gatsby himself a tragic hero?
 -  (*Themes in The Great Gatsby > Gatsby as tragic hero*)