

The Great Gatsby Character Chart Answer Key

The Great Gatsby

Character

Who is the character? What is he/she like? (List character and personality traits.) What has the character done? Why is this character important to the novel so far?



Nick Carraway	narrator, story told from his point of view, tolerant, open minded, nice, good listener, Nick views Gatsby as "deeply flawed"
Jay Gatsby	mysterious, lives in West Egg, made his fortune from bootlegging, desire for Daisy, did everything for her: this was his American Dream
Daisy Buchanan	Nick's cousin, object of Gatsby's love, shallow, extremely bored, indifferent to her daughter, represents the immoral values of east egg
Tom Buchanan	wealthy, muscular, arrogant, racist, adulterer, lives on East Egg, inherited his money, hypocritical,
Jordan Baker	Daisy's friend, competitive, lies about everything, incredibly dishonest, "new" woman of the 1920s
Myrtle Wilson	Tom's mistress, George Wilson's wife, desperate to get out of the life she is living right now, object of Tom's abuse, lives in the Valley of Ashes which is the complete opposite of East and West egg

The Great Gatsby character chart answer key serves as an essential guide for readers seeking to understand the complex relationships and motivations of F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic characters. This literary masterpiece, set in the Roaring Twenties, is rich with themes of love, wealth, and the American Dream, all intricately woven through its diverse cast. Understanding each character's role and significance can greatly enhance one's appreciation of the text. This article will provide a detailed character chart, analyzing the key figures in "The Great Gatsby," their traits, relationships, and contributions to the novel's overarching themes.

Overview of Main Characters

"The Great Gatsby" features a myriad of characters, each playing a vital role in the narrative. Below is a comprehensive character chart that outlines the main characters and their critical attributes.

1. Jay Gatsby

- Description: The enigmatic protagonist known for his extravagant parties and tragic love story.
- Traits: Wealthy, hopeful, romantic, mysterious, and idealistic.
- Significance: Represents the American Dream and the pursuit of love and acceptance.

2. Nick Carraway

- Description: The novel's narrator and Gatsby's neighbor.
- Traits: Observant, honest, reflective, and morally grounded.
- Significance: Serves as the lens through which the story is told and provides insight into the lives of other characters.

3. Daisy Buchanan

- Description: Gatsby's love interest and Nick's cousin, married to Tom Buchanan.
- Traits: Beautiful, shallow, charming, and conflicted.
- Significance: Symbolizes the allure and emptiness of wealth and the American Dream.

4. Tom Buchanan

- Description: Daisy's wealthy and aggressive husband.
- Traits: Arrogant, racist, domineering, and unfaithful.
- Significance: Represents old money and the moral decay hidden beneath wealth.

5. Jordan Baker

- Description: A professional golfer and friend of Daisy.
- Traits: Cynical, dishonest, independent, and modern.
- Significance: Embodies the new woman of the 1920s and the era's changing social norms.

6. Myrtle Wilson

- Description: Tom's mistress, unhappily married to George Wilson.
- Traits: Desperate, materialistic, and passionate.
- Significance: Represents the struggles of the lower class and the desire for a better life through wealth.

7. George Wilson

- Description: Myrtle's husband, owner of a garage in the Valley of Ashes.
- Traits: Despondent, hardworking, and tragic.
- Significance: Symbolizes the working class and the harsh realities of the American Dream.

Character Relationships

Understanding the relationships between characters is crucial for grasping the dynamics and themes of "The Great Gatsby." Here's a breakdown of the key relationships:

1. Gatsby and Daisy

- Nature of Relationship: Former lovers reunited; Gatsby's idealization of Daisy drives the plot.
- Key Points:
 - Gatsby spends years amassing wealth to win Daisy back.
 - Their relationship represents the unattainable nature of the American Dream and the illusion of love based on materialism.

2. Nick and Gatsby

- Nature of Relationship: Neighbors and friends; Nick becomes Gatsby's confidant.
- Key Points:
 - Nick's perspective provides insight into Gatsby's character and motivations.
 - Their friendship highlights themes of loyalty and the impact of social class.

3. Tom and Daisy

- Nature of Relationship: Married couple with a tumultuous relationship.
- Key Points:
 - Tom's infidelity strains their marriage, but Daisy remains with him for security.
 - Their relationship exemplifies the corruption of wealth and the facade of happiness.

4. Tom and Myrtle

- Nature of Relationship: An affair based on desire and power.
- Key Points:
 - Tom views Myrtle as a possession, reflecting his dominant personality.
 - Their relationship illustrates the destructive nature of infidelity and class disparity.

5. Myrtle and George

- Nature of Relationship: A troubled marriage marked by disillusionment.
- Key Points:

- George's love for Myrtle is genuine, but he is unaware of her affair.
- Their relationship underscores the theme of unfulfilled dreams and the harsh realities of life.

Thematic Implications of Character Dynamics

The interactions between characters in "The Great Gatsby" reveal deeper themes that resonate throughout the text. Here are some major themes connected to character dynamics:

1. The American Dream

- Analysis: Gatsby's rise from poverty to immense wealth embodies the American Dream. However, his ultimate failure suggests that this dream is often an illusion, corrupted by materialism and social stratification.

2. Class and Social Status

- Analysis: The distinctions between "old money" (Tom and Daisy) and "new money" (Gatsby) highlight the entrenched social hierarchies and prejudices of the time. The characters' interactions often reflect their social standings and the barriers they face.

3. Love and Relationships

- Analysis: The relationships in the novel often reveal the emptiness of romantic pursuits when rooted in superficial desires. Gatsby's idealization of Daisy represents the ultimate unattainable love, while Tom's betrayal illustrates the fragility of trust.

4. The Illusion of Identity

- Analysis: Characters like Gatsby and Myrtle create false identities in pursuit of their dreams. This theme of illusion versus reality is central to understanding the characters and their fates.

Conclusion

The character chart for "The Great Gatsby" is more than just a list of names; it reveals the intricate web of relationships and the profound themes that define this literary classic. By examining the characters and their interactions, readers gain a deeper understanding of the societal critiques embedded within the story. Gatsby's tragic pursuit of love and acceptance

amidst the glittering facade of the Jazz Age serves as a poignant reminder of the complexities of human nature and the often illusory nature of the American Dream. Understanding the character dynamics in "The Great Gatsby" enriches the reading experience, offering valuable insights into the motivations and struggles of each character as they navigate the tumultuous landscape of their era.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Jay Gatsby's character in 'The Great Gatsby'?

Jay Gatsby represents the American Dream, embodying themes of ambition, wealth, and the pursuit of happiness, but ultimately reveals the emptiness of that dream.

How does Daisy Buchanan's character influence the story?

Daisy Buchanan is the object of Gatsby's obsession and symbolizes the allure of wealth and social status, driving the narrative's conflict and illustrating the tension between love and materialism.

What role does Nick Carraway play in 'The Great Gatsby'?

Nick Carraway serves as the narrator and moral center of the story, providing insight into the characters' lives and the socio-economic dynamics of the Roaring Twenties.

What does Tom Buchanan represent in the novel?

Tom Buchanan represents the old money elite and the moral decay associated with wealth, showcasing themes of racism, sexism, and the corruption of the American Dream.

How does Jordan Baker's character contribute to the themes of 'The Great Gatsby'?

Jordan Baker embodies the new woman of the 1920s, representing both the liberation and moral ambiguity of the era, and her relationship with Nick highlights issues of trust and dishonesty.

What is the significance of Myrtle Wilson's character in the narrative?

Myrtle Wilson illustrates the desperation and disillusionment of those

striving for a better life, contrasting with the wealthy characters and highlighting the social divide of the era.

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