

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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The Great Gatsby

*Then wear the gold hat, if that will move her;
If you can bounce high, bounce for her too,
Till she cry "Lover, gold-hearted, high-bouncing lover,
I must have you!"*

A poem at the beginning of a novel, written by Thomas Parke D'Invilliers gives us an idea of what the whole story is about – it is about a young man named Jay Gatsby, who was totally in love with a girl named Daisy, but she came from the higher class and he was quite poor but willing to do everything he could to gain her. So he made a break-through by running some illegal business, and when he earned enough money, he bought a large mansion on the West Egg shore overlooking Daisy's house. He became popular by throwing parties every Saturday night, but he actually did it because he was hoping, that some day she would appear at his doorstep. And she eventually did...

So far we can say that The Great Gatsby is a common love story, but it is much more than that. Through descriptions of the luxurious parties it presents us the atmosphere of the Jazz Age, when girls started to wear shorter skirts and when everyone was drunk with whiskey. All kinds of people attended these huge parties, but Jay did not actually care, because everything was set up just to impress Daisy.

This novel also points out the failure of the American Dream. The fact is, that the American idealism has been corrupted by adopting materialism and that is also what destroyed Jay Gatsby – he tried to maintain his illusions and ideals but everything he did was based on materialistic values and at the end all this attractive goals he was reaching for turned out to be false.

What was so "great" about Gatsby? Well, I guess what impressed me the most was his pure love towards Daisy and his heartfelt wish to repeat the past, although that was just impossible. In my eyes he is an absolute moral winner.