

THE GREAT GATSBY

1. Chapter:

- **privy** - adjective (formal) ~ to sth allowed to know about sth secret
- **levity** - behaviour that shows a lack of respect for sth serious and that treats it in an amusing way
- **quiver** - tremble
- **suppress** - to prevent yourself from having or expressing a feeling or an emotion
- **conduct** - to organize and/or do a particular activity
- **elation** - a feeling of great happiness and excitement
- **confer** - (with sb) (on / about sth) to discuss sth with sb, especially in order to exchange opinions or get advice
- **epigram** - a short poem or phrase that expresses an idea in a clever or amusing way
- **barnyard** - an area on a farm that is surrounded by farm buildings
- **sinister** - seeming evil or dangerous; making you think sth bad will happen
- **proximity** - (of sb/sth) (to sb/sth) (formal) the state of being near sb/sth in distance or time
- **sturdy** - robust
- **supercilious** - behaving towards other people as if you think you are better than they are
- **effeminate** - (disapproving) (of a man or a boy) looking, behaving or sounding like a woman or a girl
- **swank** - to behave in way that is too proud or confident
- **leverage** - the ability to influence what people do
- **convey** - communicate
- **vista** - 1. a beautiful view, for example, of the countryside, a city, etc.; 2. a range of things that might happen in the future
- **pungent** - direct and having a strong effect
- **ajar** - slightly open
- **imperceptible** - very small and therefore unable to be seen or felt
- **totter** - to be weak and seem likely to fall
- **fright** - an experience that makes you feel fear
- **desolate** - very lonely and unhappy
- **deft** - skilful and quick
- **incredulous** - not willing or not able to believe sth; showing an inability to believe sth
- **accentuate** - to emphasize sth or make it more noticeable
- **contemptuous** - (of sb/sth) feeling or showing that you have no respect for sb/sth
- **unobtrusively** - (formal, often approving) not attracting unnecessary attention
- **bantering** - (of a way of talking) amusing and friendly
- **infinitesimal** - extremely small
- **complacency** - (usually disapproving) a feeling of satisfaction with yourself or with a situation, so that you do not think any change is necessary; the state of being complacent
- **extemporize** - improvise
- **coherence** - the situation in which all the parts of sth fit together well
- **gaiety** - the state of being cheerful and full of fun
- **wicker** - thin sticks of wood woven together to make baskets, furniture, etc
- **settee** - sofa
- **assert** - 1. to state clearly and firmly that sth is true; 2. to behave in a confident and determined way so that other people pay attention to your opinions
- **peremptorily** - in a way that allows no discussion or refusal
- **libel** - the act of printing a statement about sb that is not true and that gives people a bad opinion of them; a printed statement about sb that is not true

2. Chapter:

- **perceive** - to notice or become aware of sth
- **brood** - to think a lot about sth that makes you annoyed, anxious or upset
- **wag** - if a dog wags its tail, or its tail wags, its tail moves from side to side several times
- **dismal** - miserable
- **saunter about** - to walk in a slow relaxed way
- **jovial** - very cheerful and friendly

- **smoulder** – 1. to be filled with a strong emotion that you do not fully express; 2. to burn slowly without a flame
- **coarse** – 1. rough, not soft; 2. vulgar
- **vicinity** - the area around a particular place
- **upholstery** - soft covering on furniture such as ARMCHAIRS and SOFAS
- **interpose** - to add a question or remark into a conversation
- **haughty** - behaving in an unfriendly way towards other people because you think that you are better than them
- **countenance** - a person's face or their expression
- **stout** – 1. strong and thick; 2. brave and determined
- **rakish** – 1. (of a man) acting like a RAKE (= in an immoral, etc. way)
- **incessant** - never stopping
- **proprietary** - relating to an owner or to the fact of owning sth
- **immoderate** - extreme; not reasonable
- **lather** - a white mass of small bubbles that is produced by mixing soap with water
- **hover** - to stay close to sth, or to stay in an uncertain state
- **rustle** - if sth dry and light rustles or you rustle it, it makes a sound like paper, leaves, etc. moving or rubbing together
- **assertion** - claim
- **pivot** - the central or most important person or thing
- **mincing** - to walk with quick short steps, in a way that is not natural
- **flounce** – 1. a quick and exaggerated movement that you make when you are angry or want people to notice you; 2. to move somewhere in a way that draws attention to yourself, for example because you are angry or upset
- **strident** – 1. having a loud harsh and unpleasant sound; 2. aggressive and determined
- **wreath** - a circle of smoke, cloud, etc

3. Chapter:

- **moth** - a flying insect with a long thin body and four large wings, like a BUTTERFLY, but less brightly coloured. Moths fly mainly at night and are attracted to bright lights.
- **scamper** - (especially of children or small animals) to move quickly with short light steps
- **ravage** - to badly damage sth
- **brass** - 1. a bright yellow metal made by mixing COPPER and ZINC, objects made of brass; 2. money
- **cordial** - pleasant and friendly
- **gaudy** - too brightly coloured in a way that lacks taste
- **shawl** - a large piece of fabric worn by a woman around the shoulders or head, or wrapped around a baby
- **permeate** - 1.(of a liquid, gas, etc.) to spread to every part of an object or a place; 2. (of an idea, an influence, a feeling, etc.) to affect every part of sth
- **innuendo** - an indirect remark about sb/sth, usually suggesting sth bad or rude
- **lurch** – 1. to make a sudden, unsteady movement forward or sideways;2. a sudden strong movement that moves you forward or sideways and nearly makes you lose your balance
- **prodigal** – extravagant
- **erroneous** - not correct; based on wrong information
- **majestic** - impressive because of size or beauty
- **vehement** - showing very strong feelings, especially anger
- **slink (slunk off)** - to move somewhere very quietly and slowly, especially because you are ashamed or do not want to be seen
- **contemptuous** - (of sb/sth) feeling or showing that you have no respect for sb/sth:
- **saunter** - to walk in a slow relaxed way
- **credulity** - the ability or willingness to believe that sth is real or true
- **staid** - not amusing or interesting; boring and old-fashioned
- **nobility** - people of high social position who have titles such as that of DUKE or DUCHESS
- **condescend** - to do sth that you think it is below your social or professional position to do
- **impetuous** - acting or done quickly and without thinking carefully about the results
- **ascertain** - to find out the true or correct information about sth
- **vacuous** - showing no sign of intelligence or sensitive feelings
- **rowdy** - (of people) making a lot of noise or likely to cause trouble
- **lull** – 1. a quiet period between times of activity; 2. to make sb relaxed and calm
- **florid** – 1. (of a person's face) red; 2. having too much decoration or detail

- **corpulent** - (of a person) fat. People say 'corpulent' to avoid saying 'fat'
- **elude** - to manage to avoid or escape from sb/sth, especially in a clever way
- **convivial** - cheerful and friendly in atmosphere or character
- **swoon** - to feel very excited, emotional, etc. about sb that you think is sexually attractive, so that you almost lose consciousness
- **inept** - acting or done with no skill:
- **rivulet** - a very small river; a small stream of water or other liquid
- **asunder** - into pieces; apart
- **dissension** - disagreement between people or within a group
- **flank** - 1. the side of sth such as a building or mountain; 2. to have sb/sth on one or both sides
- **deplorable** - very bad and unacceptable, often in a way that shocks people
- **malevolent** - having or showing a desire to harm other people
- **tantalize** - to make a person or an animal want sth that they cannot have or do
- **cluster** – 1. a group of things of the same type that grow or appear close together; 2. to come together in a small group or groups
- **tumultuous** – 1. very loud; involving strong feelings, especially feelings of approval; 2. involving a lot of change and confusion and/or violence
- **jut** - to stick out further than the surrounding surface, objects, etc.; to make sth stick out
- **discordant** - not in agreement; combining with other things in a way that is strange or unpleasant
- **din** - a loud, unpleasant noise that lasts for a long time
- **apparition** - a ghost or an image of a person who is dead
- **endow** - to give a large sum of money to a school, a college or another institution to provide it with an income
- **chasm** - a very big difference between two people or groups, for example because they have different attitudes
- **loiter** – hang around
- **poignant** - having a strong effect on your feelings, especially in a way that makes you feel sad
- **throbbing** - a strong regular beat; a feeling of pain that you experience as a series of strong beats
- **subterfuge** - a secret, usually dishonest, way of behaving or doing sth
- **insolent** - extremely rude and showing a lack of respect
- **tangle** - a state of confusion or disorder

4. Chapter:

- **bootleg** - made and sold illegally
- **subtle** - not very noticeable or obvious
- **penitentiary** - a prison
- **fluctuate** - to change frequently in size, amount, quality, etc., especially from one extreme to another
- **dashboard** - the part of a car in front of the driver that has instruments and controls in it
- **sporadic** - happening only occasionally or at intervals that are not regular
- **punctilious** - very careful to behave correctly or to carry out your duties exactly as you should
- **disconcert** - to make sb feel anxious, confused or embarrassed
- **indecisively** - not providing a clear and definite answer or result
- **chiefly** - not completely, but as a most important part
- **threadbare** - that does not have much effect, especially because it has been used too much
- **insignia** - the symbol, BADGE or sign that shows sb's rank or that they are a member of a group or an organization
- **elicit** - to get information or a reaction from sb, often with difficulty
- **incredulous** - not willing or not able to believe sth; showing an inability to believe sth:
- **spire** - a tall pointed structure on the top of a building, especially a church
- **gnawing** - to keep biting sth or chewing it hard, so that it gradually disappears
- **consent** - permission to do sth, especially given by sb in authority
- **cobbled slum** - (of streets and roads) having a surface that is made of COBBLES (=granite kocke)
- **girder** - a long strong iron or steel beam used for building bridges and the FRAMEWORK of large buildings
- **lump** - a piece of sth hard or solid, usually without a particular shape
- **hearse** - a long vehicle used for carrying the coffin (= the box for the dead body) at a funeral
- **juxtapose** - to put people or things together, especially in order to show a contrast or a new relationship between them
- **succulent** - (of fruit, vegetables and meat) containing a lot of juice and tasting good

- **benediction** - a Christian prayer of BLESSING
- **denizen** - a person, an animal or a plant that lives, grows or is often found in a particular place
- **beaux (sg beau)**- a woman's male lover or friend
- **armistice** - a formal agreement during a war to stop fighting and discuss making peace
- **unfathomable** - too strange or difficult to be understood
- **aspire** - to have a strong desire to achieve or to become sth
- **splendour** - grand and impressive beauty
- **dispense** - to give out sth to people
- **pursue** - to do sth or try to achieve sth over a period of time
- **cornice** - a decorative border around the top of the walls in a room or on the outside walls of a building

5. Chapter:

- **shrubbery** – an area planted with shrubs
- **elongate** - to become longer; to make sth longer
- **glint** - to produce small bright flashes of light
- **rout** - a situation in which sb is defeated easily and completely in a battle or competition
- **render** - to cause sb/sth to be in a particular state or condition
- **receptacle** - a container for putting sth in
- **pantry** - a cupboard/closet or small room in a house, used for storing food
- **scrutinize** - to look at or examine sb/sth carefully
- **dew** - the very small drops of water that form on the ground, etc. during the night
- **tread** - to put your foot down while you are stepping or walking
- **harrow** - a piece of farming equipment that is pulled over land that has been PLOUGHED to break up the earth before planting
- **counterfeit** - (of money and goods for sale) made to look exactly like sth in order to trick people into thinking that they are getting the real thing; not genuine:
- **defunct** - no longer existing, operating or being used
- **rigid** - (of rules, methods, etc.) very strict and difficult to change
- **steeple** - a tall pointed tower on the roof of a church, often with a SPIRE on it
- **craze** - an enthusiastic interest in sth that is shared by many people but that usually does not last very long; a thing that people have a craze for
- **serf** - (in the past) a person who was forced to live and work on land that belonged to a LANDOWNER whom they had to obey
- **vestige** - a small part of sth that still exists after the rest of it has stopped existing
- **confound** - to confuse and surprise sb
- **exultation** - great pride or happiness, especially because of sth exciting that has happened
- **recurrent** - that happens again and again
- **frothy** - seeming attractive and enjoyable but having no real value
- **hawthorn** - a prickly bush or small tree with white or pink flowers and small dark red berries called haws
- **swath** - a large strip or area of sth
- **plaid** - a thick fabric with a pattern of lines and squares of different colours and widths, especially a TARTAN pattern
- **corrugated** - shaped into a series of regular folds that look like waves
- **defiant** - openly refusing to obey sb/sth, sometimes in an aggressive way
- **billow** - (of a sail, skirt, etc.) to fill with air and swell out
- **scanty** - too little in size or amount for what is needed
- **duck (trousers)** - to move somewhere quickly, especially in order to avoid being seen
- **nebulous** - not clear
- **hue** - a type of belief or opinion
- **spasm** - a sudden and often painful tightening of a muscle, which you cannot control

6. Chapter:

- **laudable** - deserving to be praised or admired, even if not really successful
- **meretricious** - seeming attractive, but in fact having no real value
- **contemptuous** - (of sb/sth) feeling or showing that you have no respect for sb/sth
- **conceit** - too much pride in yourself and what you do
- **ineffable** - too great or beautiful to describe in words

- **oblivious** - not aware of sth
- **savoury** - having a pleasant taste or smell
- **ramification** - one of the large number of complicated and unexpected results that follow an action or a decision
- **turgid** - (of language, writing, etc.) boring, complicated and difficult to understand
- **debauched** - a debauched person is immoral in their sexual behaviour, drinks a lot of alcohol, takes drugs, etc
- **substantial** - large in amount or value; important
- **misconception** - a belief or an idea that is not based on correct information, or that is not understood by people
- **ingratiate** - to do things in order to make sb like you, especially sb who will be useful to you
- **perturb** - alarm
- **oppressive** - treating people in a cruel and unfair way and not giving them the same freedom, rights, etc. as other people
- **commotion** - sudden noisy confusion or excitement
- **pervade** - to spread through and be noticeable in every part of sth
- **invariably** - always
- **hitherto** - until now; until the particular time you are talking about
- **lethargy** - the state of not having any energy or enthusiasm for doing things
- **attain** - to succeed in getting sth, usually after a lot of effort
- **proximity** - the state of being near sb/sth in distance or time
- **beget** - to make sth happen
- **chafe** - to feel annoyed and impatient about sth, especially because it limits what you can do
- **euphemism** - an indirect word or phrase that people often use to refer to sth embarrassing or unpleasant, sometimes to make it seem more acceptable than it really is
- **dilatory** - not acting quickly enough; causing delay
- **blot out** - to cover or hide sth completely
- **unwavering** - not changing or becoming weaker in any way
- **linger** - to continue to exist for longer than expected
- **exalt** - to praise sb/sth very much
- **obliterate** - to remove all signs of sth, either by destroying or covering it completely
- **rind** - the thick outer skin of some types of fruit
- **discarded** - to get rid of sth that you no longer want or need
- **venture** - to go somewhere even though you know that it might be dangerous or unpleasant
- **bustle** - busy and noisy activity
- **pap** - books, magazines, television programmes, etc. that have no real value
- **romp** - to play in a happy and noisy way
- **incarnation** - a period of life in a particular form
- **elusive** - difficult to find, define, or achieve

7. Chapter:

- **broiling** - to become or make sb become very hot
- **affront** - to insult or offend sb
- **awning** - a sheet of fabric that stretches out from above a door or window to keep off the sun or rain
- **crimson** - dark red in colour
- **bona fide** - genuine, real or legal; not false
- **clog** - to block sth or to become blocked
- **croon** - to sing sth quietly and gently
- **relinquish** - to stop having sth, especially when this happens unwillingly
- **stagnant** - not developing, growing or changing
- **scalloped** - to decorate the edge of sth with small curves
- **ale** - a type of beer, usually sold in bottles or cans. There are several kinds of ale
- **insistent** - demanding sth firmly and refusing to accept any opposition or excuses
- **gravel** - small stones, often used to make the surface of paths and roads
- **notion** - an idea, a belief or an understanding of sth
- **abyss** - a very deep wide space or hole that seems to have no bottom
- **flurry** - an occasion when there is a lot of activity, interest, excitement, etc. within a short period of time
- **alight** - 1. (of faces or eyes) showing a feeling of happiness or excitement; 2. on fire

- **vigil** - a period of time when people stay awake, especially at night, in order to watch a sick person, say prayers, protest, etc
- **involute** - that has been, or must be, respected and cannot be attacked or destroyed
- **precipitate** - (of an action or a decision) happening very quickly or suddenly and usually without enough care and thought
- **intermittent** - stopping and starting often over a period of time, but not regularly
- **tangible** - that can be clearly seen to exist
- **stifling** - to feel unable to breathe, or to make sb unable to breathe, because it is too hot and/or there is no fresh air
- **shrub** - a large plant that is smaller than a tree and that has several stems of wood coming from the ground
- **portentous** - very serious and intended to impress people
- **dismal** - causing or showing sadness
- **putter** - to make a repeated low sound as it moves slowly
- **gibberish** – nonsense
- **libertine** - a person, usually a man, who leads an immoral life and is interested in pleasure, especially sexual pleasure
- **prig** - a person who behaves in a morally correct way and who shows that they disapprove of what other people do
- **partake** - to take part in an activity
- **rancour** - feelings of hatred and a desire to hurt other people, especially because you think that sb has done sth unfair to you
- **swindle** - to cheat sb in order to get sth, especially money, from them:
- **magnanimous** - kind, generous and forgiving, especially towards an enemy or a RIVAL
- **exulting** - to feel and show that you are very excited and happy because of sth that has happened
- **clamour** - 1. a loud noise especially one that is made by a lot of people or animal; 2. to demand sth loudly
- **tumult** - a confused situation in which there is usually a lot of noise and excitement, often involving large numbers of people
- **inquest** - a discussion about sth that has failed
- **waver** - to be or become weak or unsteady
- **wailing** - a long loud high cry, especially because you are sad or in pain
- **expostulate** - to argue, disagree or protest about sth
- **deranged** - unable to behave and think normally, especially because of mental illness
- **incoherent** - unable to express yourself clearly, often because of emotion
- **wad** - a thick pile of pieces of paper, paper money, etc. folded or rolled together
- **rift** - a serious disagreement between people that stops their relationship from continuing

8. Chapter:

- **dejection** - a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment:
- **musty** - smelling damp and unpleasant because of a lack of fresh air
- **malice** - a feeling of hatred for sb that causes a desire to harm them
- **indiscernible** - that cannot be seen, heard or understood
- **ravenous** - extremely hungry
- **unscrupulous** - without moral principles; not honest or fair
- **stratum** - a class in a society
- **grail** - a thing that you try very hard to find or achieve, but never will
- **redolent** - making you think of the thing mentioned
- **wail** - to make a long high sound
- **petal** - a delicate coloured part of a flower. The head of a flower is usually made up of several petals around a central part.
- **dew** - the very small drops of water that form on the ground, etc. during the night
- **pervade** - to spread through and be noticeable in every part of sth
- **vestibule** - an entrance hall, for example where hats and coats can be left
- **corroborate** - to provide evidence or information that supports a statement, theory, etc
- **to be in cahoots** - to be planning or doing sth dishonest with sb else
- **rigid** - very strict and difficult to change
- **garrulous** - talking a lot, especially about unimportant things
- **flinch** - to make a sudden movement with your face or body as a result of pain, fear, surprise, etc
- **thud** - a sound like the one which is made when a heavy object hits sth else
- **forlorn** - appearing lonely and unhappy

9. Chapter:

- **adventitious** - happening accidentally; not planned
- **surmise** - to guess or suppose sth using the evidence you have, without definitely knowing
- **superfluous** - unnecessary
- **defiance** - open refusal to obey sb/sth
- **addendum** - a section of extra information that is added to sth, especially to a book
- **dismay** - a worried, sad feeling after you have received an unpleasant surprise
- **sparse** - only present in small amounts or numbers and often spread over a large area
- **drizzle** - light fine rain
- **elocution** - the ability to speak clearly and correctly, especially in public and pronouncing the words in a way that is considered to be socially acceptable
- **poise** - a calm and confident manner with control of your feelings or behaviour
- **murky** - dark and unpleasant because of smoke, FOG, etc
- **complacent** - too satisfied with yourself or with a situation, so that you do not feel that any change is necessary; showing or feeling complacency
- **brittle** - hard but easily broken
- **squeamish** - easily upset, or made to feel sick by unpleasant sights or situations, especially when the sight of blood is involved
- **recede** - to move gradually away from sb or away from a previous position