

The Great Gatsby

By F. Scott Fitzgerald

Glossary

Chapter I

abortive – fruitless; cut short

abruptly – suddenly

acute – sharp; keen

audible – able to be heard

banns – public announcement of a proposed marriage

ceased – stopped

coherence – clarity

compelled – drove; forced

complacency – self-satisfaction

conferred – bestowed

contemptuous – disdainful

contour – shape

conviction – certain belief

corroborated – confirmed

deft – skillful

divan – couch

elations – joys

epigram – short, witty poem or saying

erect – upright

extemporizing – improvising

fervent – intensely glowing

fractiousness – quarrelsomeness

hardy – tough

imperatively – commandingly

incredulously – skeptically

infinitesimal – incalculably small

intimation – hint
irrelevant – wholly unimportant
languidly – sluggishly
levity – lightness; frivolousness
parcelled – given; measured
paternal – fatherly
peremptorily – urgently; commandingly
pessimist – negative thinker
preceded – went before
prominent – at the forefront; well-known
proximity – nearness
pungent – strong-smelling
reciprocal – returned
riotous – exuberant
rotogravure – old method of developing photographs
sedative – calming
submerged – put under
supercilious – coolly haughty
superficial – shallow; surface-level
tangible – solid; touchable
turbulent – disturbed; in commotion
unaffected – natural
uninflected – toneless; unaccented
unobtrusively – without getting in the way
vigil – watch
wan – pale; sickly

Chapter II

ambiguously – capable of being understood in more than one way
anemic – lacking vitality
commenced – began
contiguous – next to; adjacent
countenance – appearance

deferred – postponed
discreetly – unnoticeably
hauteur – arrogance; haughtiness
incessant – constant and uninterrupted
indeterminate – vague; indefinable
initiative – enterprise
jovially – merrily
mincing – affectedly dainty
obscure – vague
oculist – optometrist
pastoral – peaceful; rural
proprietary – possessive
strident – harsh and insistent
transcendent – overcoming; rising (above)
vicinity – surrounding area
wag – joker

Chapter III

apparition – vision; ghost
ascertain – determine
asunder – apart
cataracts – waterfalls
caterwauling – noisily crying
convivial – festive
cordial – warm; heartfelt
corpulent – stout
credibility – believability
credulity – a willingness to believe on slight evidence
crescendo – rise in volume
deplorably – lamentably
discordant – clashing; out of harmony
dissension – disagreement

divergence – departure
echolalia – condition in which one repeats what others have said
eluded – escaped
erroneous – mistaking
florid – ruddy
fortnight – two weeks
fraternal – friendly; brotherly
harlequin – multicolored
homogeneity – sameness; similarity
impetuously – impulsively and forcefully
ineptly – foolishly
innuendo – reference
insolent – overbearing
loitered – lingered
malevolence – ill will
notorious – well-known
obligingly – in an accommodating way
permeate – spread through
poignant – moving; affecting
prodigality – lavishness
provincial – unsophisticated
rent – torn
retracted – took back
speculation – wondering
subterfuges – deceptions
tortuously – in a winding, circuitous manner
tumultuous – confused and disorderly
vacuous – empty of content
vehemently – powerfully; passionately
vinous – wine-induced

Chapter IV

bootlegger – maker of illegal whiskey (especially during Prohibition)

denizen – regular; frequent visitor

monopolizing – having sole access to

disconcerting – embarrassing; jarring

dispensed – gave out

fluctuate – rise and fall

gilt – golden

inevitably – unavoidably

knickerbockers – loose, short pants gathered at the knee

penitentiary – prison

punctilious – careful; exacting

roved – wandered

sauterne – white wine

sporadic – infrequent

succulent – juicy

unfathomable – immeasurable

Chapter V

corrugated – wrinkled; having alternating ridges and grooves

demonic – fiendish

gaudily – flashily

harrowed – tormented

innumerable – countless

nebulous – indistinct

obstinate – not easily subdued

postern – back gate; private entrance

remotely – distantly

reproach – disappointment; blame

rout – disorganized retreat

scanty – less than sufficient

scrutinized – carefully inspected

swathed – draped

vestige – trace

Chapter VI

antecedents – predecessors

conceits – fanciful ideas

contingencies – possible outcomes

debauchee – person – person corrupted by indulgence

dilatory – tardy

euphemisms – inoffensive expressions that stand in for potentially offensive ones

foliage – leaves; brush

ineffable – indescribable

ingratiate – to gain favor by flattery

insidious – treacherous

laudable – commendable; praiseworthy

lethargic – sluggish

meretricious – pretentious

notoriety – fame

oblivious – forgetful

perturbed – bothered

profusion – abundance

ramifications – consequences

reposing – placing

robust – healthy; thriving

septic – toxic

transpired – developed; become apparent

turgid – excessively embellished

Chapter VII

boisterously – rowdily
caravansary – hotel
irreverent – lacking proper respect
libertine – a person unrestrained by conventions or morality
morbid – gloomy; gruesome
portentous – overwrought; pompous
precipitately – suddenly
prig – obnoxiously proper person
stagnant – stale

Chapter VIII

amorphous – shapeless
benediction – blessing
cahoots – partnership; league
commensurate – proportionate
divot – loose piece of turf
fortuitously – happening by chance
grail – the object of an extended, difficult search
holocaust – great destruction of life
humidor – case in which cigars are kept fresh
orgastic – climactic; intensely exciting
pandered – gratified
pneumatic – inflated
protégés – persons trained, influenced, and helped along by others
redolent – aromatic
strata – level (of society)
transitory – brief; temporary
unscrupulously – in an unprincipled manner
vestibule – lobby

Chapter IX

addenda – addition

adventitious – happening by chance; accidental

bulbous – bulb-like

circumstantial – detailed; inferred from direct evidence

pasquinade – lampoon; satire

raspingly – abrasively; irritatingly

resolves – resolutions

reverent – awed and respectful

superfluous – excessive; unnecessary

surmise – conjecture; idea based on little evidence

ulster – a long, loose overcoat