

The Great Gatsby Chapter 9 Quotes

Mr. Eble, CP1 Sophomore American Literature



Name: _____ Date: _____ AMDG

Fill in the name for each blank below. Then, provide an answer to each question following the segment of text.

#1 *I wanted to get somebody for him. I wanted to go into the room where he lay and reassure him: 'I'll get somebody for you, A. _____'. Don't worry. Just trust me and I'll get somebody for you—'*

1. Does Nick have any luck “finding” anyone for A? Why?
2. Why do you think that Nick seems so intent on getting people to Gatsby’s funeral?
3. Do you think that Nick is showing *pity* towards Gatsby? Or do you believe that he is showing *respect*? Explain

#2	<i>Rise from bed</i>	<i>6.00 A.M.</i>
	<i>Dumbbell exercise and wall-scaling</i>	<i>6.15-6.30 A.M.</i>
	<i>Study electricity, etc</i>	<i>7.15-8.15 A.M.</i>
	<i>Work</i>	<i>8.30-4.30 P.M.</i>
	<i>Baseball and sports</i>	<i>4.30-5.00 P.M.</i>
	<i>Practice elocution, poise and how to attain it</i>	<i>5.00-6.00 P.M.</i>
	<i>Study needed inventions</i>	<i>7.00-9.00 P.M.</i>

GENERAL RESOLVES

- No wasting time at Shafters or [a name, indecipherable]
- No more smokeing or chewing
- Bath every other day
- Read one improving book or magazine per week
- Save \$5.00 [crossed out] \$3.00 per week
- Be better to parents

1. Who gives this schedule to Nick? Describe him; how does this fit the description of “James Gatz” we saw earlier in the text?

2. After seeing Gatsby’s daily schedule from when he was about 15, what other writer that we’ve studied does this resemble? Why might Fitzgerald include this?

3. Knowing that Gatsby worked hard from a young age to better himself, what can we say about the “American Dream” while taking into account Gatsby’s downfall?

#3 *Even when the East excited me most, even when I was most keenly aware of its superiority to the bored, sprawling, swollen towns beyond the Ohio, with their interminable inquisitions which spared only the children and the very old — even then it had always for me a quality of distortion. West Egg, especially, still figures in my more fantastic dreams...In the foreground four solemn men in dress suits are walking along the sidewalk with a stretcher on which lies a drunken woman in a white evening dress. Her hand, which dangles over the side, sparkles cold with jewels. Gravely the men turn in at a house — the wrong house. But no one knows the woman’s name, and no one cares.*

After Gatsby’s death the East was haunted for me like that, distorted beyond my eyes’ power of correction. So when the blue smoke of brittle leaves was in the air and the wind blew the wet laundry stiff on the line I decided to come back home.

There was one thing to be done before I left, an awkward, unpleasant thing that perhaps had better have been let alone. But I wanted to leave things in order and not just trust that obliging and indifferent sea to sweep my refuse away.

1. Explain what this scene shows about Nick’s experience in New York? About the position from which he’s telling the story now?

2. Nick says that he “wanted to leave things in order” with one particular person. With whom does he meet, and what is the results of their meeting?

#4 They were careless people, A. _____ and B. _____ — they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made. . . .

1. How does this quote illustrate Nick’s attitude about A and B? How do we see them being “careless” people who make others clean up their messes? Consider what happened with Myrtle and Gatsby’s deaths.

2. Consider Catherine’s testimony about her sister and how the media painted George Wilson; how does this demonstrate a lack of culpability for the actual people who were responsible for these deaths?

#5 (@ the funeral)

"Go on!" A. _____ started. "Why, my God! they used to go there by the hundreds." He took off his glasses and wiped them again, outside and in.

"The poor son-of-a-bitch," he said.

1. Why is it significant that, besides Nick, some butlers, and Henry Gatz, A. is the only person to show up to Gatsby's funeral? (remember what we discussed when we first met this character in chapter 3)

#6 *And as I sat there brooding on the old, unknown world, I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy's dock. He had come a long way to this blue lawn and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night.*

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther.... And one fine morning—

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

1. What is Nick saying here in the final words of the book, that relate to the nature of hopes and dreams? Please read the passage carefully, and explain.