Chapter Five

1. What steps has Gatsby taken to ensure this reunion day is perfect?

2. What’s the weather like at the beginning of the chapter? Symbolically analyze this element of the scene.

3. Why does Gatsby take Nick and Daisy the long way around his house to the front door instead of just cutting through the back lawn?

4. When Nick asks Gatsby what business he is in, Gatsby responds, “That’s my affair,” before he realizes that this is not an appropriate reply. Why does Gatsby give that answer, and why is it not an appropriate reply?

5. Okay, let’s talk about that scene with the shirts. Obviously, Daisy’s not crying because of the actual shirts. Analyze the passage and explain what, exactly, has caused Daisy to become so emotional as she wraps herself in all those shirts.

6. As the three of them look across the bay toward Daisy’s house, Nick tells us, “Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to that great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.” First, explain what Fitzgerald means by “the great distance” between Gatsby and Daisy. Then, explain the significance of the fact that the green light is now just a light on a dock and that Gatsby’s “count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.”
Chapter Six

1. In the first few pages of this chapter, we learn about Gatsby’s background. When did James Gatz change his name to Jay Gatsby? Why did he leave college after just two weeks?

2. Nick says, “So he [Gatsby] invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end.” For James Gatz, what does he expect the future Jay Gatsby’s life will be like? Specifically, at night, what sets James’ heart “in a constant, turbulent” riot?

3. To young Gatz, what does Dan Cody’s yacht represent?

4. Why does Gatsby not get the $25,000 left to him in Cody’s will? What lesson did young Gatsby likely learn from this incident?

5. After crossing paths with Gatsby, Tom says, “I may be old-fashioned in my ideas, but women run around too much these days to suit me.” What’s interesting (and hypocritical) about this line?

6. What is Daisy’s opinion of Gatsby’s party?

7. While the reader can have easily predicted Daisy and Tom’s reactions to his party, Gatsby cannot. Why not?

8. What is Nick’s view of repeating the past, and what is Gatsby’s opinion? Why is Gatsby’s opinion unrealistic?