**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 10**

**The *Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald 1**

**Summary**

*The Great Gatsby* is a novel set in the 1920s, during the Jazz Age, in New York. The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, who moves to Long Island and rents a house next to the mansion of the mysterious and wealthy Jay Gatsby. Gatsby is known for throwing lavish parties in hopes of rekindling a romance with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan, who lives just across the bay with her husband, Tom. As Nick becomes more involved with Gatsby and the Buchanans, he learns that Gatsby's wealth and lifestyle were acquired through questionable means, all in pursuit of the unattainable Daisy. Ultimately, Gatsby’s dream of recapturing the past is shattered, leading to tragic consequences.

**Main Characters**

1. **Nick Carraway**: The narrator of the novel, Nick is an honest, observant, and somewhat detached character. He comes from a wealthy Midwestern family and moves to West Egg to work in banking. He is a keen observer of the people around him, particularly Gatsby, Daisy, and Tom, but he often remains passive in the events that unfold. His moral compass is central to the narrative, and while he is drawn to Gatsby’s charm, he also recognizes the emptiness of the world Gatsby inhabits.
2. **Jay Gatsby**: Gatsby is the enigmatic and wealthy protagonist who embodies the American Dream. Born as James Gatz to a poor family, he reinvented himself as Jay Gatsby and amassed a fortune through dubious means. His obsession with Daisy and the past defines his life and ultimately leads to his downfall. Gatsby represents both the idealism of the American Dream and its inherent corruption.
3. **Daisy Buchanan**: Daisy is a beautiful, shallow, and emotionally conflicted woman. She is married to Tom Buchanan but is deeply entangled with Gatsby, with whom she had a romantic relationship before he went to war. Daisy’s indecisiveness and superficial nature highlight the moral decay and emptiness of the world in which she lives. She is often seen as a symbol of the unattainable ideal that Gatsby strives for.
4. **Tom Buchanan**: Tom is Daisy’s wealthy, arrogant, and brutish husband. He comes from old money and has a sense of entitlement and superiority. Tom is having an affair with Myrtle Wilson, and his treatment of others, especially Gatsby and Myrtle, reflects his moral and emotional corruption. He represents the established, privileged class that resists change and threatens Gatsby’s dreams.
5. **Jordan Baker**: Jordan is a professional golfer and Daisy’s friend, who becomes romantically involved with Nick. She is portrayed as cynical, dishonest, and somewhat self-centered, mirroring the other characters in the novel. Her character reflects the changing roles and attitudes of women during the 1920s, but she also exemplifies the disillusionment of the time.
6. **Myrtle Wilson**: Myrtle is Tom's mistress, married to George Wilson, a mechanic and owner of a garage. She is desperate to escape her lower-class life and is drawn to Tom's wealth and status. Her affair with Tom ultimately leads to her tragic death, illustrating the consequences of living a life driven by materialism and the pursuit of superficial desires.