

Student Resource 1 Narrative perspective

How is *The great Gatsby* presented from different points of view?

Nick

No – Gatsby turned out all right at the end;

To the young Gatz, resting on his oars and looking up at the railed deck, the yacht represented all the beauty and glamour in the world. I suppose he smiled at Cody – he had probably discovered that people liked him when he smiled.

... better than the whole damn bunch put together.

Jordan

"He's just a man named Gatsby."

"Now you're started on the subject," she answered with a wan smile. "Well, he told me once he was an Oxford man."

"However, I don't believe it."

Daisy

"I'd like to know who he is and what he does," insisted Tom.

"I can tell you right now," she answered. "He owned some drug-stores, a lot of drug-stores. He built them up himself."

Then from the living-room I heard a sort of choking murmur and part of a laugh, followed by Daisy's voice on a clear artificial note: "I certainly am awfully glad to see you again."

Tom

"I wonder where in the devil he met Daisy. By God, I may be old-fashioned in my ideas, but women run around too much these days to suit me. They meet all kinds of crazy fish."

"An Oxford man!" He was incredulous. "Like hell he is! He wears a pink suit."

"Who is this Gatsby anyhow?" demanded Tom suddenly. "Some big bootlegger?"

Others, e.g. party guests

"Somebody told me they thought he killed a man once."

A thrill passed over all of us. The three Mr Mumbles bent forward and listened eagerly.

"I don't think it's so much that," argued Lucille sceptically; "it's more that he was a German spy during the war."

Others, e.g. party guests

Contemporary legends such as the "underground pipe-line to Canada" attached themselves to him, and there was one persistent story that he didn't live in a house at all, but in a boat that looked like a house and was moved secretly up and down the Long Island shore.

