The Great Gatsby
Francis Scott Fitzgerald

Introduction
What do you know about the story?
Watch the film trailer and discuss the questions below.

1 What do we learn about the plot from the trailer?
2 Do you think it is going to be a happy or a sad film?

Setting (Place and Time)
1 When and where does the story take place?
2 What do you think of the setting? Describe it in a few words.
3 How would you describe Gatsby’s house?

Characters
1a What’s your first impression of ...
   - Jay Gatsby (played by Leonardo DiCaprio)?
   - Nick Carraway (played by Tobey Maguire)?
   - Daisy Buchanan (played by Carey Mulligan)?

1b Which of these adjectives best describe the characters? Add one more adjective each per character.

- mysterious
- gorgeous
- friendly
- honest
- innocent
- wealthy

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<th>Jay Gatsby</th>
<th>Nick Carraway</th>
<th>Daisy Buchanan</th>
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2 What is the relationship between
• Gatsby and Nick?
• Gatsby and Daisy?
• Daisy and Nick?

3 Look at the picture. Who are the characters? Describe what they look like. Compare them with the characters in the film.

4 Read this description of Gatsby from the book. Is it similar to the character in the film? Can you remember this scene from the trailer?

“...The orchestra started to play some jazz music. I looked around. Gatsby was standing on the steps of his house. He was looking at everyone with approving eyes. He didn’t look like a sinister person with his attractive, tanned face and short, tidy hair...”

Prediction
1 We hear about Gatsby’s secret several times in the trailer. What can this secret be?
2 We can see a flashing green light in the trailer. What do you think it is? What could it represent?
Write down your predictions and check if you are right when you read the story.

Explore and Research
A Find out about the 1920s in the USA. Compare it to the same age in your country. You can search images of that age. Can you find more similarities or differences?
B Find out about New York and Long Island in the age of Gatsby. What was New York like in the 1920s? This age is often called the ‘Roaring Twenties’ in America. What does ‘roar’ mean? Why is the name given to this time?
C Think about and research the music, dance and fashion of the era. What music did they listen to? What did they dance? What did the women wear? What hairstyle did they have?
D Nick Carraway comes from the Midwest. Find this area on the map. What are the states of the Midwest? What are the major cities?