

THE GREAT GATSBY: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald to the movie *The Great Gatsby* (1974) starring Robert Redford, Mia Farrow, and Karen Black, Scott Wilson, Sam Waterston, Lois Chiles, and Bruce Dern. Screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola. Directed by Jack Clayton. A Paramount Picture.



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ISBN 978-1-937714-01-7

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SAMPLE THE GREAT GATSBY: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *THE GREAT GATSBY* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by F. Scott Fitzgerald

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Great Gatsby* (1974) starring Robert Redford, Mia Farrow, and Karen Black, Scott Wilson, Sam Waterston, Lois Chiles, and Bruce Dern. Screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola. Directed by Jack Clayton. A Paramount Picture. This is the first Gatsby movie and still the best. The movie adds and subtracts from the plot of the book, but it's still worth watching. Party scenes of the Roaring 20s are fantastic!

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★★☆☆ Setting: ★★★★★

Structure: ★☆☆☆☆ Symbols: ★★★☆☆ Theme: ★★☆☆☆

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

Michaelis, Nick's visit to Wolfshiem's office, Gatsby's background, the Finn, Jordan and Nick's romance, the Dan Cody story, the inquest . . .

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

Nick's boat, Tom on horseback, Daisy/Gatsby love scenes, Myrtle's breaking the window, Wilson's friend, the golf tournament, fencing scene, the ring, the dead seagull . . .

WHAT'S THE SAME?

Gatsby's parties, the billboard, the yellow car, the green light, the shirts, the pink suit, the hit-and-run accident, the murder, the lunch with Wolfshiem, party at Myrtle's apartment, the tea party at Nick's cottage, the Plaza Hotel, Gatsby's father at the funeral . . .

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

OPENING SCENE: Opening scene shows a series of shots of a mansion, yellow car, background sounds of a party, a scrapbook full of photos of Miss Daisy Fay, a framed photo of a mansion, and a photo of Daisy in her wedding dress. (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*)

Nick Carraway in a small motor boat is almost swamped by a large sailing yacht as he crosses the bay from West Egg to have lunch at Tom and Daisy Buchanan's house in East Egg. (**ERROR:** *In the book Nick does not have a boat. He drives an old Dodge*) In the background Nick narrates a quote from Chapter 1. (**ACCURATE:** *The quote is: "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."*)

When the boat docks, Nick is met by Tom Buchanan who rides up on a polo pony dressed in full polo gear. He is followed by a chauffeur-driven car. (**ERROR:** *In the book Nick arrives at the Buchanan's home by car and Tom greets him dressed in polo gear*) Nick tells Tom that he is renting a cottage in West Egg for \$80 a month. (**ACCURATE**)

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