

**THE GREAT**

**GATSBY**

{ Chapters 1 and 2

Setting and Characterization



↳ Nick describes a valley of ashes.

Everything is dingy and cloudy, reflecting the after effects of industrialization, over everything looms the sign advertising Dr. T.J. Eckleberg's glasses.

**THE GARAGE**

George Wilson's garage is in an urban wasteland outside of NYC, polluted and nearly deserted.

## THE GARAGE

Wilson's garage is one of three properties in a small brick building. There is nothing else around. The inside of the garage is quite bare, with little evidence of business.

## THE GARAGE

↳ Daisy has life of wealth and luxury ;  
Myrtles surroundings suggest near  
poverty

**THE GARAGE**

Q The eyes are an oculist's advertising billboard showing huge blue eyes surrounded by yellow frames, with no other facial features.

**THE GARAGE**



DRIFT ECKLER



Q The one-bedroom apartment is on the top floor and is overstuffed with fancy furniture.

# THE APARTMENT

↳ Animal lovers often feel more pity for the puppy than for any of the people in the novel. The situation reveals a basic selfishness and lack of responsibility that are main concerns of the novel as a whole

# THE APARTMENT

↳ To Tom, the apartment is not home but a stopover, a place to have his affair with Myrtle. Home is a fancy Georgian Mansion on East Egg.

# THE APARTMENT

↳ To Myrtle, the tacky apartment must seem like absolute elegance, coming as she does from the dreary environment of the garage.

# THE APARTMENT

& Chapter one — suburban and upper class,  
with mansions and sweeping lawns. Nick's  
house may be small and a comparative eyesore,  
but it is far from urban poverty.

& Chapter two — urban, lower middle class,  
tasteless

# THE APARTMENT



**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

George Wilson is blond, basically good looking,  
but devoid of energy and animation

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

↳ Appears to be servile and dependent; he may be naïve as he is completely unaware of any relationship between his wife and Tom

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

↳ Tom and George are polar opposites. George is poor, weak and defeated. Tom is powerful, rich and arrogant.

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

↳ Myrtle is not refined, her tastes are vulgar, her conversation is superficial and she is infatuated with Tom.

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

↳ Daisy seems to represent a cool, high class social ideal; Myrtle is passionate and perhaps naïve in contrast.

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

George seems to trust Myrtle; he is probably proud to have her as his wife. He may find her vitality exhausting.

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

It is evident that Myrtle is only one in a long line of affairs. Tom is probably attracted to her vitality, but even more by her slavish attitude toward him.

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**

↳ To Myrtle, George is a failure and a disappointment, a marriage to be regretted, Tom is kind of Prince Charming to lose him would be a disaster

**GEORGE AND MYRTLE**



↳ Does not really like urban life. Does not need a big house or fancy new vehicle. Upper class enough to think he needs a maid — he depersonalizes the maid

**NICK CARRAWAY**

Despite the fact that Nick doesn't agree with Tom, he does not voice his opinion. Thinks Tom is outdated and false — likes to keep things nice.

**NICK CARRAWAY**

↳ Nick is related to Tom's wife, and he has recently been a guest in their home. Still he does not voice his disapproval.

**NICK CARRAWAY**

↳ In some ways, Nick seems to drift with the forces around him. Passively accepts Tom's instances that he joins them.

**NICK CARRAWAY**

↳ Nick seems to be an observer, quite passive, silent even, when he disapproves.

**NICK CARRAWAY**

↳ More of a listener than a talker

↳ Observer than a man of action

↳ Keeps disapproval to himself

↳ Carries not being judgmental to an extreme —  
resulting in a failure of moral responsibility.

↳ Unable to take a stand.

**NICK CARRAWAY**