

CHARACTER ANALYSIS: NICK CARRAWAY

1. We see all the action of *The Great Gatsby* from the perspective of one character whose narration seems to be shaped by his own values and temperament. What is Nick Carraway like, what does he value, and how do his character and his values matter to our understanding of the action of the novel? **USE QUOTES!!!**

What is Nick like?	What does he value?	Why is this significant?

2. Early in the novel, Nick says of Gatsby that he “turned out all right at the end” (p.2) Later, however, after he tells Gatsby “You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together” (154) he abruptly calls this “the only compliment I ever gave him because I disapproved of him from beginning to end.”

DISCUSS: What does this curiously ambivalent admiration for Gatsby tell us about Nick, and especially about his relation to Gatsby’s “incurruptible dream?”

3. An intriguing exchange between Nick and Gatsby takes place near the end of Chapter Six: “I wouldn’t ask too much of her,” Nick says “ You can’t repeat the past.” “Can’t repeat the past?” Gatsby cries out. “Why of course you can!” (p. 110).

DISCUSS: How does the past impinge upon the present in the **Nick's** life?

4. According to one of the characters in Azar Nafisi’s contemporary memoir, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*,, the only “sympathetic“ person in the novel is “ the cuckolded husband, Mr. Wilson.”

What aspects of *The Great Gatsby* might be offered as grounds for such a claim, and is the claim ultimately convincing?

This excludes Nick. Do you agree that even Nick is an "unsympathetic" character? Why or why not?