



SUMMARY

Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's original novel, this Broadway musical follows millionaire Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan.

CHARACTER GUIDE

**Nick Carraway:** The story's narrator and Gatsby's neighbor. He comes from a middle-class family in Minnesota and serves as a confidant to those around him.

**Jay Gatsby:** The story's protagonist, who is known for throwing lavish parties at his mansion, in hopes that his long-lost love, Daisy, will attend.

**Daisy Buchanan:** Nick's cousin and Tom Buchanan's unhappy wife. She has a past with Gatsby and yearns for him amidst her husband's infidelity.

**Tom Buchanan:** Daisy's wealthy and arrogant husband. He has an affair with Myrtle Wilson, but becomes outraged when he suspects his wife is having an affair with Gatsby.

**Jordan Baker:** Daisy's friend. She is a competitive golfer and represents the "new woman" of the 1920s. Jordan becomes romantically involved with Nick Carraway, but ultimately, they don't share the same values.

**Myrtle Wilson:** Wife of George Wilson, who owns a run-down auto shop. Myrtle desperately wants to become a wealthy, high-class woman by having an affair with Tom Buchanan.



## EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

### Writing

Have students reflect on the following: "Have you ever needed to wait a very long time for something you truly wanted without the guarantee that it would come?" "Are you waiting for something right now?" "Is there a benefit to building toward that unknown outcome versus waiting idly?" "Did the anticipation over time warp your expectations of the outcome?" "Did you feel that you had a choice in this outcome, or was it a matter of fate?"

### Embodying

Have students envision themselves at one of Gatsby's parties and play "Roaring On" from the cast recording, or any jazz/big band music of choice, so that they can dance. Students should think about the following: "How are you entering the dance floor?" "Are you solo or asking to partner with someone?" "Do you prefer the slow and sassy clarinet solo or the soulful beats of the trumpet and drums pairing up?" As long as you're moving to the music, no wrong answers here!

### Contextual

Have students read the lyrics to Daisy's "For Better or Worse" and consider the following: "What internal questions is she grappling with?" "Does she feel that she made the right choice in marrying Tom?" "Was it a choice at all?" "How has the institution of marriage dictated women's lives in the 1920s versus now?" "Are there any double standards that still exist within typical gender roles?" Keep these questions in mind and listen to the song.