

## Research proposal - what to do and what not to do...

<b>What I already know...</b> Main characters: Daisy Buchanan, Jay Gatsby, Nick Carraway, Tom Buchanan, Myrtle Wilson, Jordan Baker  That F Scott Fitzgerald wrote this book.  That money is everything - set in 1920s NYC; swinging '20s	IDK
<b>What I would like to find out...</b> The place of women in this book? What is the American Dream and why is F Scott Fitzgerald writing about it?	What life was like in 1920s America?
<b>Big picture situation:</b> Great Gatsby is written in a time of extreme financial success, in a time in America where it was thought that anyone could work hard and be successful (and success means make a lot of money); Jay Gatsby failed.	Great Gatsby is about big parties.
<b>Big picture question:</b> Why did Jay Gatsby fail to make his American Dream come true?	
<b>Hypothesis:</b> Jay Gatsby didn't get to make his American Dream come true because he built his dream on something that wasn't real.	He didn't get it because she didn't love him.
<b>Focus question one:</b> What did the American Dream look like for Jay Gatsby?	Did Daisy love Gatsby?
<b>Focus question two:</b> What are some reasons that Jay Gatsby's dream fell apart?	How is Donald Trump changing the American Dream?
<b>Focus question three:</b> What comment on the American Dream is Fitzgerald suggesting?	

- For your 'first' source, you need to take notes against your questions from your book. By starting here, you best place yourself, you are able to think critically (agree / disagree and why) about the critics.
- Also, it's a good way to check that your questions are going to work ok; if you can't find information from your book that answers your questions, you need to rethink them. Rethinking questions, and the hypothesis, can happen right throughout the research process; change your questions and your hypotheses as you find information.

Source Info	Q1 What did the American Dream look like for Jay Gatsby?	Q2 What are some reasons that Jay Gatsby's Dream fell apart?	Q3 What role does Jordan Baker have in the book?	Evaluation (reliability/usefulness)
<p>Title: The Great Gatsby</p> <p>Author: F.Scott Fitzgerald</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>URL / Publication details:</p>	<p>"[H]e stretched out his arms toward the dark water. . . . I . . . distinguished nothing except a single green light, minute and far way. . . . When I looked once more for Gatsby he had vanished. . . ." (p.47)</p> <p>"enchanted objects" (p98) - shirts, green light, Daisy</p>	<p>"The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty. So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen year old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end." (p.190)</p> <p>"There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams -- not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything. He had thrown himself into it with a creative passion, adding to it all the time, decking it out with every bright feather that drifted his way. No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart." (p97)</p> <p><i>Dream was just that - a dream; it had no reality because the dream was too big. Daisy was never going to live up to his dream - she is human after all and he</i></p>	<p>"Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther. . . . And then one fine morning— So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."</p> <p>"[H]e stretched out his arms toward the dark water. . . . I . . . distinguished nothing except a single green light, minute and far way. . . . When I looked once more for Gatsby he had vanished. . . ." (p43)</p>	<p>F. Scott Fitzgerald lived during the time that he wrote the book. He was a part of the Roaring '20s scene and his life story inspired the Great Gatsby - his own wife, Zelda, was only won over after Fitzgerald earned money from his writing. He died at the age of 44 and was an alcoholic.</p> <p>To me, he is a reliable source because he lived through this era and this could be seen as his account. But he is also biased because of his own experiences - his work highlights the downfall of the excesses of the Jazz Age / Roaring '20s because he, himself, fell prey to the excesses with his alcoholism and the fact that his wife Zelda was put into a mental institution for schizophrenia. His is only one version of the truth but it definitely highlights</p>

		<p>hadn't seen her for so long that she would have been perfected in his memory; everyone has flaws but Gatsby was blinded to Daisy's because he didn't even really know her - he love the figment in his imagination?</p> <p>"Her voice is full of money," he said suddenly."</p> <p>"Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one" (98).</p>		the problems with this age in history.
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- The next note making boxes are for your critical texts.
- You need to use at least TWO, but it's better to use at least three or four - that means that you will be sure to have at least two critics answer each of your questions.
- Remember! One source per table! If you start putting multiple sources into each table, your information will get all mixed up and be hard to trace back to it's source.

Source Info	Q1 What did the American Dream look like for Jay Gatsby?	Q2 What are some reasons that Jay Gatsby's Dream fell apart?	Q3 What comment on the American Dream is Fitzgerald making?	Evaluation (reliability/usefulness)
<p><b>Title:</b> <a href="#">The American Dream Unhinged: Romance and Reality in the Great Gatsby and Fight Club</a></p> <p><b>Author:</b> Suzanne Del Gizzo</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 2008</p> <p><b>URL / Publication details:</b> The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review, Vol. 6, 2007-2008</p>	<p>"commodities" - that Jay Gatsby felt that if he had the biggest, flashest of everything, then he had achieved the American Dream; that he had made it.</p> <p>Gatsby felt that the dream was shown through having lots of stuff</p>	<p>Gatsby's "self invention" (p79)</p> <p>"Gatsby is a kind of split personality, having transformed himself from the unwashed Jimmy Gatz into the spectacular Jay Gatsby." (p79)</p> <p>this talk of invention and transformation suggests that</p>	<p>"As a man who notoriously viewed himself as the "poor boy in a rich boy's world" and who rocketed to fame and wealth with his first book, Fitzgerald was a keen observer of the social and economic landscape of his day; his personal situation made</p>	<p>This was reliable because it answered all my questions</p>

	<p>The American Dream is “about the sacred myths of American prosperity, individuality, and progress” (p71)</p> <p>Gatsby wants to be in the Upper Classes - <b>this means money and lots of it</b> - lots of upper class people come to Gatsby’s parties; registered by their last names - their family names (p74) <b>Family names suggest old money</b></p> <p>“Daisy is presented as a “grail” (156)” (p 83) - <b>having her as his wife represents access to the upper classes (she is high born) and achievement of the American Dream</b></p> <p>Wants to recreate his past - where there was a purer love with Daisy (p83)</p> <p>Gatsby’s belief that things (including Daisy) will give him his American Dream “will magically open the gates to the highest level of the American upper class for him” (P84)</p> <p>objects show status and identity (p84) and also the ability to get them - “the striving for it” (p84)</p>	<p><b>the American Dream isn’t real - that in itself is an invention and split from the reality of the daily life of Americans.</b></p> <p>self inventiveness kills of the self that was before (p81)</p> <p><b>Saw Daisy as “idealised” and not as “a person” - (p82)</b> <b>People are seen as things, commodities to be owned (p85)</b></p> <p><b>“Gatsby’s ability to unhinge who he longs to be from the person he is.” - things take on a life of their own eg “bootleg liquor to become the “milk of wonder”</b></p> <p>Once these things have been gotten, their magical appeal lessens / disappear - they are seen to be just normal stuff (p85) <b>Is this the same as the American Dream - once got it loses its magic? can you ever get it? or are you always chasing it? Eg Tom had old money, Daisy, a daughter, was good at sport and everything - he was the American Dream Gatsby was chasing - but he still wanted more - he drank heavily (which suggests an</b></p>	<p><b>him particularly alert to the way commodities could be used to suggest status and class.” (p70)</b></p> <p>“Although it is not explicit in Gatsby, the “unreality of reality” is what leads Fitzgerald to his notoriously ambivalent attitude toward the American Dream despite Nick’s desire to believe in it and in Gatsby” (p71) <b>Fitzgerald has a really tarnished view of the American Dream - he’s suggesting that its not real and it’s all fakery</b></p> <p>“the American Dream appears to have turned into a schizoid nightmare.” (p81)</p> <p><b>“violence is an unwavering side-effect of the American dream.” (p81)</b></p> <p><b>American Dream is built on things, not on emotions, and that’s what’s wrong with it - consumerism</b></p> <p><b>“Moreland notes, “Gatsby cannot be ‘Gatsby’ without his dream” (142); without</b></p>	
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		<p>element of needing to escape this perfect life) and he started an affair with the wife of a lowly mechanic. If Tom's life represents the ideal of the American Dream, then what is that actually saying about it as a reality? Once you have it, you'll never stop wanting more?</p> <p>Objects back up the allusion that is the American Dream - eg Nick and Gatsby's first drive into NYC where Gatsby tells a whole lot of stories (too many and too incredulous) and Nick stops questioning when Gatsby produces the medal and the photo - things back up the American dream; (p87) <b>things make the American dream real and tangible even if it is still an illusion</b></p> <p>"The real reason that Gatsby is killed is because he has, through his act of self-making and pursuit of Daisy, violated the social boundaries and sensibilities of Tom's world in which individuals must be authenticated by ancestry." (88)</p> <p>"As Donaldson points</p>	<p>the dream, his identity cannot hold and its incoherence becomes brutally clear." (p86)</p> <p>Is Fitzgerald suggesting that America can't be anything without the American Dream? Without its things? Its consumerism? Without its chase for more, more, more?</p> <p>"ultimately The Great Gatsby records a moment when the promise of the American dream runs up against the reality of American life as those in power at that time defined it." (88)</p> <p>The chasing of things has potentially ruined the dream - it became commercialised (92) <b>perhaps as some say commercialisation and the extravagant spending around Christmas has 'ruined' Christmas</b></p>	
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		<p>out in "Possessions in The Great Gatsby," what Gatsby (and Myrtle) fail to comprehend is "that it is not money alone that matters, but money combined with secure social position" (194)." (88)</p> <p>Tom et al won't let anyone without these social qualifications of lineage into their group - they are protective of it (88)</p> <p>But the sad bit is Gatsby could never "escape the rigid order of Tom's world." (91) Gatsby will never "overcome the limitations of his birth." (91) - <b>he thinks he can change his destiny but the reality is that he can't - the American Dream is a crock; you can't really achieve whatever you want because there are glass ceilings everywhere.</b></p> <p>"He fashions an identity premised on the belief that his real identity can be transformed, that he can make words into flesh." (p91) - the basic foundation of the American Dream</p>		
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Source TWO Info	Q1 What did the American Dream look like for Jay Gatsby?	Q2 What are some reasons that Jay Gatsby's Dream fell apart?	Q3 What comment on the American Dream is Fitzgerald making?	Evaluation (reliability/usefulness)
<p><b>Title:</b> <a href="#">Scott Fitzgerald's Criticism of America</a></p> <p><b>Author:</b> Marius Bewley</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1954</p> <p><b>URL / Publication details:</b> The Sewanee Review Vol. 62 No.2 (Apr- Jun 1954) pp 223-246</p>	<p>Gatsby believed that wealth would bring him the dream (226)</p> <p>"But in that heroic list of the vaster luxury tems - motor-boats, aquaplanes, private beaches, Rolls-Royces, diving towers? Gatsby's vision maintains its gigantic unreal stature." (229)</p> <p>on the parties - "compulsion that drives him to offer them the hospitality of his fabulous wealth" (230)</p> <p>"She is what she is - but she exists also at the level of Gatsby's vision of her" (233)</p>	<p>"possibilities of life on a level at which the material and the spiritual have become inextricably confused." (223)</p> <p>"Historically, the American dream is anti-Calvinistic, and believes in the goodness of nature and man." (223) <b>but that's not how it's played out</b></p> <p><b>"the conditions of American history have condemned the grandeur of the aspiration and vision" (225 sic)</b></p> <p>"Gatsby never succeeds in seeing through the sham of his world or his acquaintances very clearly" (226) <b>he doesn't want to see that he can't achieve the dream; that he is locked out; is Gatsby a symbol for greater America? That actually this lie is fed to the masses and they swallow it not realising that they will hit unbreakable glass ceilings?</b></p>	<p>"it can be shown that The Great Gatsby offers some of the severest and closest criticism of the American dream that our literature affords." (223)</p> <p>"takes its distinguished place among those great national novels whose profound corrective insights into the nature of American experience" (223)</p> <p>"the withering of the American dream." (223)</p> <p>"The Great Gatsby becomes the acting out of the tragedy of the American vision" (226)</p> <p>"which it presents Gatsby to us less as an individual than as a projection, or mirror, of our ideal selves." (242)</p> <p>"there where Tom and Daisy, and generations</p>	<p>Marius Bewley writes at a time (1954) when critics are saying Fitzgerald is just reporting the realities of the Jazz Age; that most people think Fitzgerald approves - with Bewley this is starting to change and allows a greater importance to be put on the american dream. This is the time that people are starting to see the importance of The GG and its starts to become 'The Great American Novel' - making comment on the state of the American Dream.</p> <p><b>"Marius Bewley (1916-1973) was a British-American literary critic. Educated at Cambridge. Bewley taught English literature at Rutgers and was an advisory editor at The Hudson Review." And John Hopkins University, who is working publish his work, is a world renowned university with a reputation for research excellence. This paper is published on JSTOR a credible research paper, not for profit, so all of this is telling me that</b></p>

		<p>Money can't provide the dream (226) Eg the shirts - he shows them off to not be boastful, but because he thinks they represent the dream they represent that he has achieved the dream (226)</p> <p>The parties are an attempt to break the glass ceiling "but the division in American experience has widened too far, and no party, no hospitality however lavish, can heal the breach." (231)</p> <p>"understanding of Daisy's vicious emptiness" (233)          "She has become a gesture divorced forever from the tiresomeness of human reality." (234)          "what he sees beyond her;" (235) - <b>what she represents, rather than who she is. Gatsby is in love with an idea, a representation; Daisy is literally a trophy wife - a trophy showing that Gatsby has broken into the upper classes.</b></p> <p>"Daisy has become a legend in Gatsby's memory .... a 'mythic' creature" (238)</p>	<p>of small-minded, ruthless Americans had found it -in the dream less, visionless complacency of mere matter, substance without form." (244)</p>	<p>this is trustworthy information that is credible.</p> <p>Additionally, Bewley uses a lot of direct quotes from the Great Gatsby, further improving his credibility that he has read the book and that his interpretations are accurate.</p> <p>Bewley is writing this to extend people's thinking and interpretations of the Great Gatsby so that they theme can be more widely understood</p> <p>Overall this was a really useful source because it answered all of my questions - Q2&amp;3 more than Q1 but I still got really detailed information that helps me to test my hypothesis</p>
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		Gatsby fails because he can't see the barriers of the society around him (243)		
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