

# STATION 1: *Gatsby's mansion*

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“I want you and Daisy to come over to my house,” he said, “I’d like to show her around.”

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He hadn’t once ceased looking at Daisy, and I think he revalued everything in his house according to the measure of response it drew from her well-loved eyes. Sometimes, too, he stared around at his possessions in a dazed way, as though in her actual and astounding presence none of it was any longer real.

## **QUESTIONS:**

Why does Gatsby want to show Daisy his house? What might his house represent, in his mind? What might he be trying to show Daisy? Why does Gatsby “revalue” his possessions as Daisy tours his mansion? What does Daisy think of his house, and why is her reaction important?

## STATION 2: *Gatsby's shirts*

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He took out a pile of shirts and began throwing them, one by one, before us, shirt of sheer linen and thick silk and fine flannel, which lost their folds as they fell and covered the table in many-colored disarray. While we admired he brought more and the soft rich heap mounted higher—shirts with stripes and scrolls and plaids in coral and apple-green and lavender and faint orange, with monograms of Indian blue. Suddenly, with a strained sound, Daisy bent her head into the shirts and began to cry stormily.

“They’re such beautiful shirts,” she sobbed, her voice muffled in the thick folds. “It makes me sad because I’ve never seen such—such beautiful shirts before.”

### QUESTIONS:

Why is Daisy crying over shirts? Is she really crying over *shirts*? Or could she be “sad” about something else? Why do the shirts trigger her sadness, though? (There’s been one other mentioning of Daisy crying in the novel—remember when that was?) Is Gatsby trying too hard here? What does he think tossing these shirts will prove? What could the shirts represent? How do the shirts fit into Gatsby’s dream?

# STATION 3: *Gatsby's dream*

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He had passed visibly through two states and was entering upon a third. After his embarrassment and his unreasoning joy he was consumed with wonder at her presence. He had been full of the idea so long, dreamed it right through to the end, waited with his teeth set, so to speak, at an inconceivable pitch of intensity. Now, in the reaction, he was running down like an overwound clock...

## **QUESTIONS:**

Was Gatsby's dream too intense? Did he dream for too long? Why or why not? Why do you think he has dreamed of Daisy so much anyways? Is Daisy worth Gatsby's 5-year dream? Is Gatsby's dream realistic? What will Gatsby do now that his dream is right in front of him? Why is he "running down like an overwound clock?" Speaking of the old clock he nearly knocked over at Nick's house, what could it represent?

# STATION 4: *Gatsby's green light*

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“If it wasn’t for the mist we could see your home across the bay,” said Gatsby. “You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock.”

Daisy put her arm through his abruptly, but he seemed absorbed in what he had just said. Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one...

## **QUESTIONS:**

What is the “colossal significance” of the “enchanted” green light? In other words, what did it symbolize? Also, while you’re at it, why is the light green? What ideas/images does the color green evoke? Why is it important that the green light is not visible in this scene? What does the simile of the stars/moon reveal about Gatsby’s dream/the green light? (Hint: Are stars actually close to the moon?)

# STATION 5: *Gatsby's "illusion"*

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As I went over to say good-bye I saw that the expression of bewilderment had come back into Gatsby's face, as though a faint doubt had occurred to him as to the quality of his present happiness.

Almost five years! **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.

## QUESTIONS:

Why might Gatsby be bewildered? What is Fitzgerald suggesting about Gatsby's dream? Why does he use the word illusion? Does this connect to the idea of disillusionment? Did Gatsby over-dream? Is there even such a thing as over-dreaming? Does over-dreaming come with consequences? Do you admire Gatsby's passion? Does Nick? Does Fitzgerald?



