

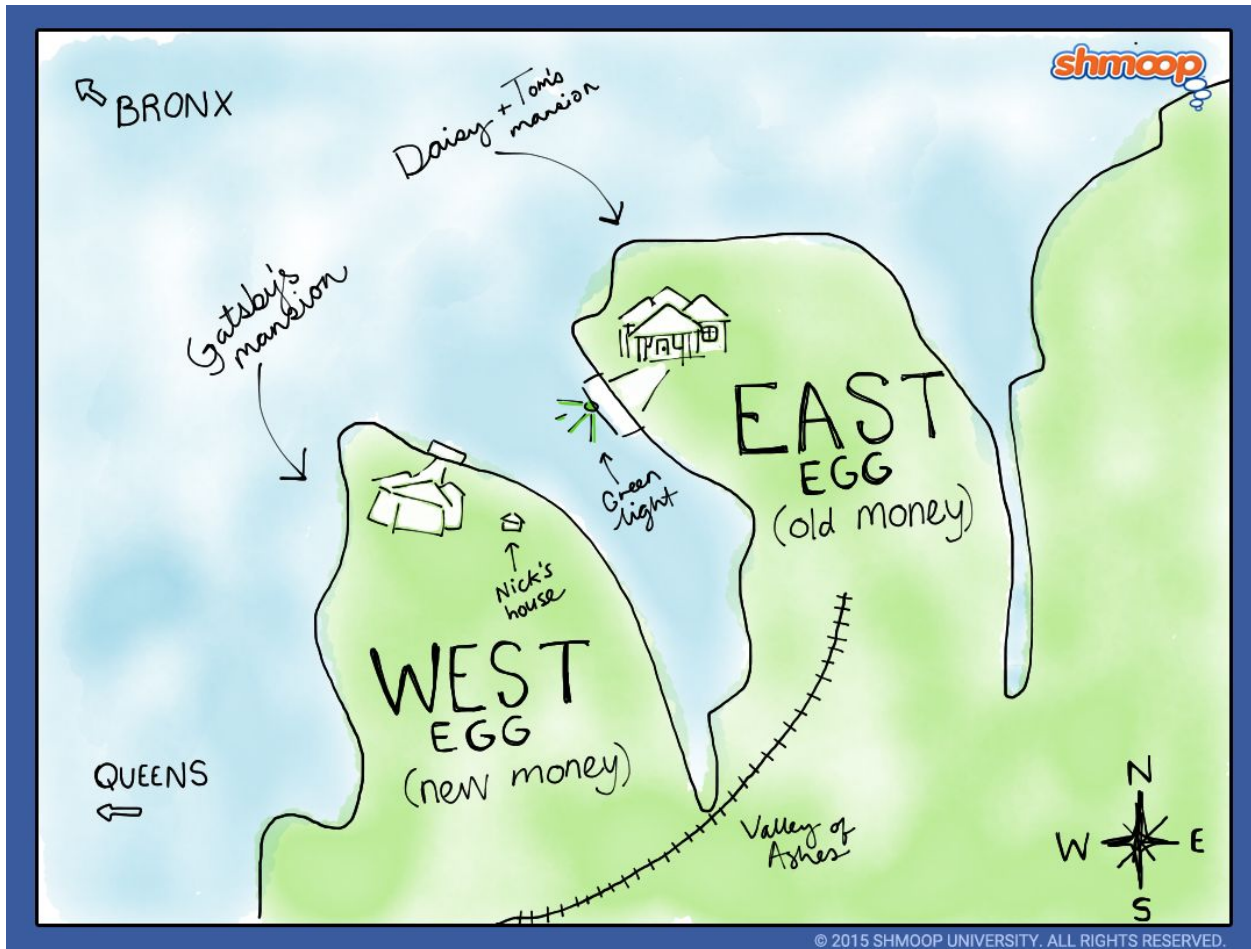
The Great Gatsby. Chapter One Key Points

Here, I have summarized key points from each page of the [pdf copy](#) of the novel.

- **Page 3:** The narrator, Nick Carraway's father told him "whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."
 - this advice from his father has greatly affected Nick and has led him to never judge other people. As a result, all sorts of people throughout his life confess their secrets to Nick and many people find it strange that he won't say anything bad about others or judge them. Eventually, hearing everyone else's secrets does wear Nick out and is a burden to him
- **Page 4:** Here, Nick is saying that now that he has returned East (New York), he no longer wants to hear and bear the burden of everyone's secrets, for it has worn him out.
 - He says that Gatsby was the exception to this rule, implying that he still enjoyed learning Gatsby's secrets.
 - Then, he goes on to describe Gatsby:
 - "—Gatsby who represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn"
 - "there was something gorgeous about him"
 - "[he had] an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness"
 - This is a little vague and confusing, but clearly Nick was drawn to Gatsby and very interested in him as a person, yet Nick also says Gatsby represented everything that he didn't like in a person, so this leaves us wondering why was Nick so drawn to him?
- **Page 5:** Here, we learn a little bit about Nick Carraway's family background.
 - He is from a wealthy family in the midwest who has been around since the Civil War. Nick attended college, fought in World War 1, and after returning from war, no longer wanted to live in his Midwestern hometown. Instead, he decided to move to New York City and work in finance.
 - he decides to rent a house a little outside of the city since he is more used to living in the country. Originally, he was supposed to room with a co-worker, but then the co-worker had to leave the country for work so he lived alone.
- **Page 6:** Not much happens on this page, but we learn that Nick lives in a place called West Egg Village and it is summertime. He passes the time by

enjoying the fresh air and reading books both about finance and for pleasure.

- **Page 7:** Nick describes West Egg and his house.
 - West Egg is less wealthy compared to East Egg.
 - Nick's house is right on the water, in between two giant mansions. He describes it as a small eyesore.
 - The house to his right is Gatsby's Mansion, but at this time Nick has no idea who Gatsby is.



- **Page 8:** Here, Nick describes his first visit to the Buchanan's house located on East Egg.
 - Nick knows the Buchanans because he is Daisy's second cousin and he knew Tom in college.
 - Tom was a football star in college and is one of the wealthiest people that Nick knows, he comes from an incredibly wealthy family.
- **Pages 9-10:** Nick arrives at the Buchanan's East Egg mansion.

- Tom is described as arrogant and aggressive, with an enormous body. We get the impression that Tom thinks he is better than most others.
- Nick says that he and Tom always got along well enough in college, though they were not close.
- Tom gives Nick a tour of the mansion, and they see two young women dressed in all white sitting upon the couch.
- **Page 11:** Nick meets the two girls.
 - One of the girls (Jordan Baker) is stretched out on the couch and doesn't even appear to notice Nick. The other is his second cousin, Daisy. Daisy cheerfully greets Nick.
- **Page 12:** Nick describes Daisy.
 - Nick explains how everyone, especially men, is drawn to Daisy. She has an enchanting voice and beautiful love.
 - Nick tells her that everyone back home in Chicago misses her terribly.
- **Pages 13-16:** The group talks and has dinner.
 - Tom put Nick down by telling him that he has never heard of the company that Nick works for.
 - We learn that Miss Baker is in training for something and Nick seems especially interested in her.
 - He describes her as Slender with good posture and gray eyes. He thinks that he has seen her somewhere before.
 - Jordan tells Nick that she knows someone who lives in West Egg too, Gatsby. Nick doesn't get a chance to tell the group that that is his neighbor.
 - Tom starts ranting about a book called *The Rise of the Coloured Empires*. The book is about the dangers of blacks taking over society and becoming the dominant race. Tom claims the book is "scientific".
- **Pages 17-18:** The butler interrupts and beckons Tom inside for some reason.
 - Miss Baker is eavesdropping and tells Nick that Tom has gone inside to answer a phone call. It is his mistress, who lives in the city. Miss Baker is shocked that Nick didn't know, because she says that everyone knows about it.
 - Daisy and Tom return and act as if nothing is wrong.
 - The phone rings again and Daisy shoots a look at Tom.
- **Pages 19-20:** Nick and Daisy are alone outside.
 - Nick notices that Daisy looks upset, so he tries to cheer her up by asking her about her infant daughter.

- She tells Nick: “Well, I’ve had a very bad time, Nick, and I’m pretty cynical about everything.”
 - She tells Nick that when her daughter was born, she told the nurse: “I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.”
- **Pages 21-23:** Nick and Daisy return inside oh, and the group says their goodnights.
 - Nick learns that Miss Baker is Jordan Baker, the tennis star, and that is how he recognized her.
 - Daisy jokingly tells Nick that she intends to set him and Miss Baker up together.
 - Tom seems concerned about what Nick and Daisy talked about alone together outside, and he tells Nick, “ don’t believe everything you hear.”
 - As Nick is leaving, Daisy and Tom ask him if he is engaged. They heard rumors from multiple people that he has.
 - Nick says that these were just rumors, and we’re part of the reason that he came East. He didn’t want to stop seeing this girl because of the rumors but he also didn’t want to be forced into proposing to her.
- **Pages 24-25:** Nick returns home to West Egg.
 - On the dock of the house to his right, Nick notices a figure standing on the dock. Nick assumes that this must be Gatsby.
 - Nick is about to introduce himself but then notices that Gatsby is stretching his arms out towards the water and seems to be trembling, so Nick decides not to interrupt him.
 - Nick looks out into the water to see what Gatsby might be looking at, but he doesn’t see anything except for a green light across the bay.