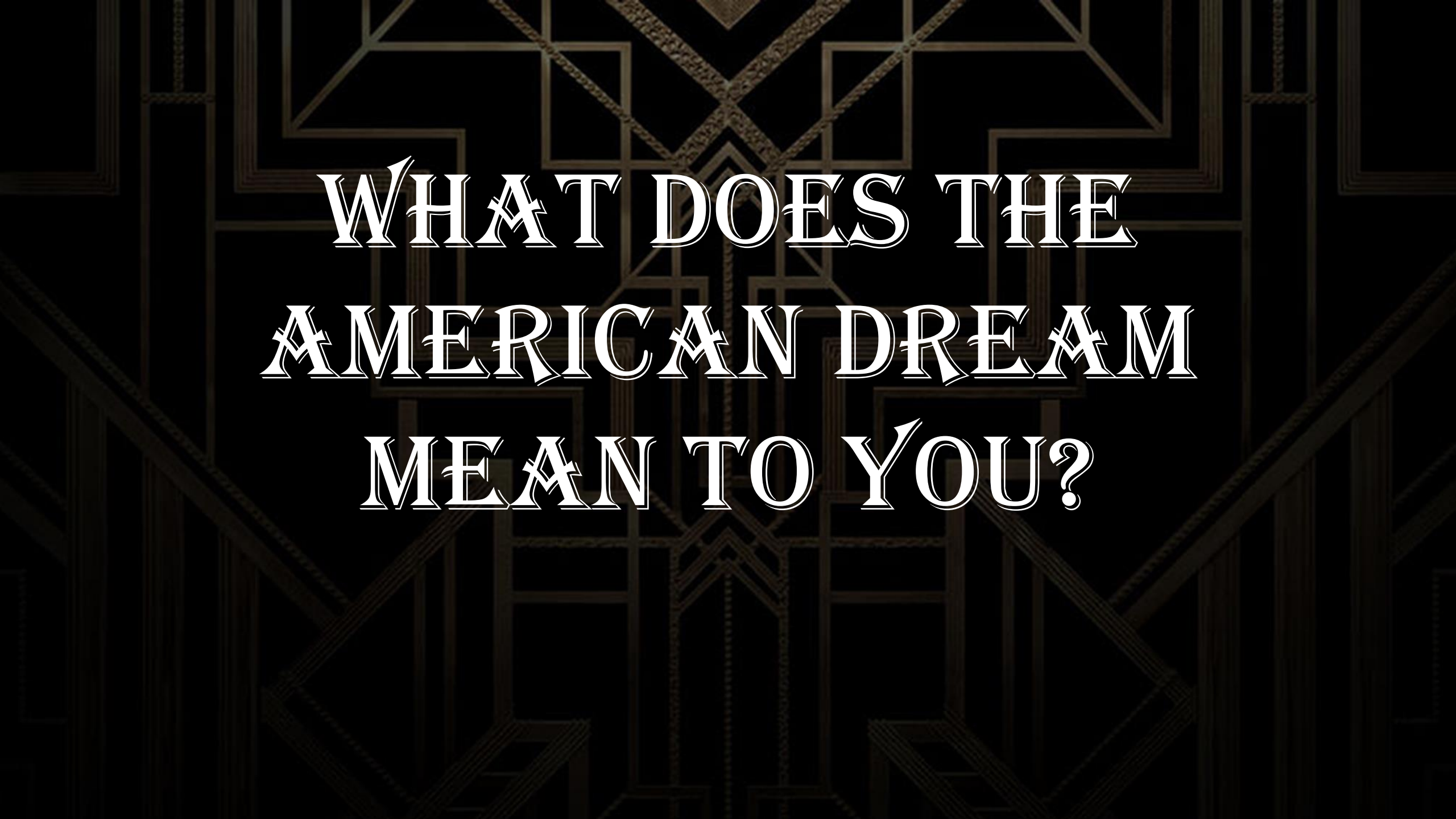


The background features a dark, intricate Art Deco geometric pattern. It consists of a grid of squares and rectangles, with some squares containing diagonal lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The lines are thin and light-colored, contrasting against the dark background.

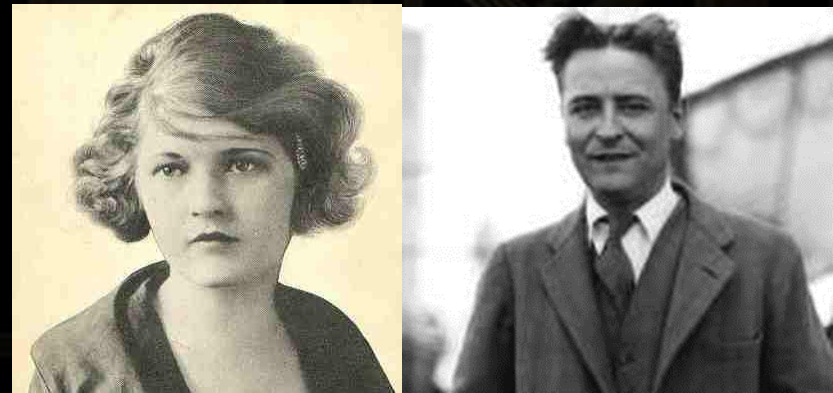
THE GREAT  
GATSBY -  
INTRODUCTION



WHAT DOES THE  
AMERICAN DREAM  
MEAN TO YOU?

## About the Author – F. Scott Fitzgerald

- Lived from September of 1896 until he died in the December of 1940.
- Married Zelda Sayre
- Wrote *The Great Gatsby*, *The Beautiful and the Damned*, and *Tender is the Night*





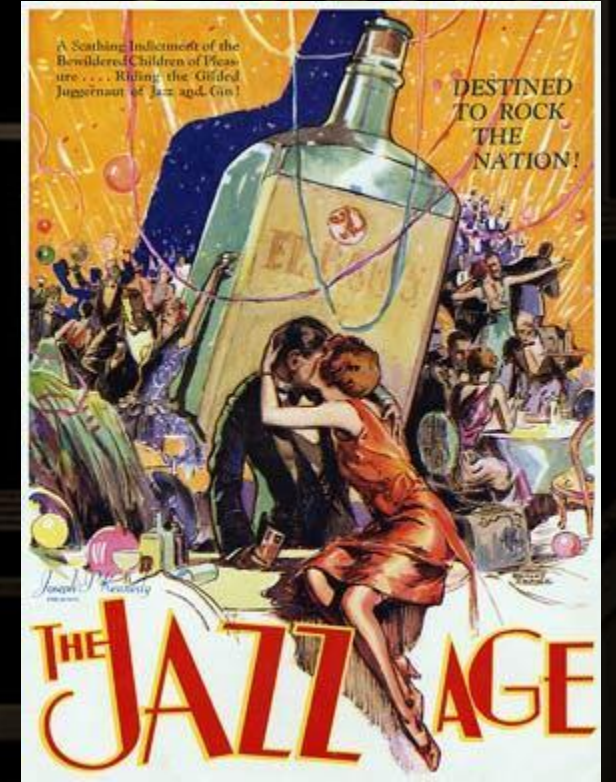
# Fitzgerald and Society

- Fitzgerald named the 1920's "The Jazz Age."



# The Jazz Age

- Prohibition was in effect.
- Dances like the Charleston were popular, and slang words included Bee's Knees, dolled up, hip to the jive, and 23 Skidoo.
- Jazz was booming in popularity, especially in urban areas.





# Roaring Twenties

- Prohibition – alcohol (any kind) made illegal
- Speakeasies – a backroom secret bar
- Bootlegging – transporting illegal alcohol
- Organized Crime – the mafia
- Jazz Age – named for the music style
- Dancing – the “Charleston”
- Flappers – women with short hair, short skirts, and smoked cigarettes constantly



# The Life of the 20's



Josephine Baker – Broadway dancer, important to the Harlem Renaissance



Langston Hughes – Poet, writer, and artist. Regarded as one of the all-time greats.

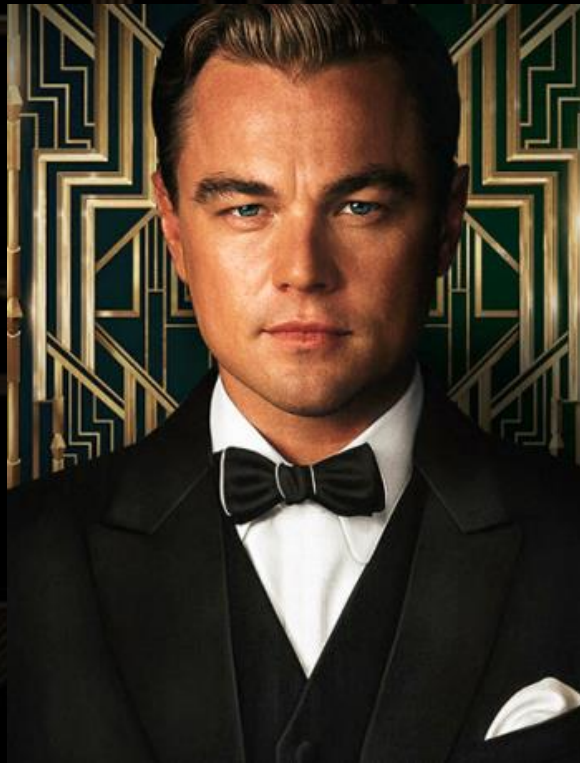




# Character: Jay Gatsby

- Gatsby is a self-made wealthy man who lives next door to Nick Carraway and madly loves Daisy Buchanan.

Neighbor



Love of Gatsby



# Character: Nick Carraway

- The narrator, Daisy's cousin, and Gatsby's neighbor.

Neighbor



Cousin

# Character: Daisy Buchanan

- Married to Tom, Gatsby's pre-war love interest, socialite.

Husband



Love Interest



# Character: Tom Buchanan

Daisy's husband, having an affair with Myrtle Wilson.

Wife



Lover

## Other Characters

- Myrtle Wilson – Tom's woman in the city, married to George Wilson
- George Wilson – owns the gas station
- Jordan Baker – Daisy's friend, professional golfer
- Owl Eyes – eccentric drunk at Gatsby's parties
- Klipspringer – shallow freeloader who seems to live at Gatsby's house



# Settings

- West Egg – where Nick and Gatsby live.  
Represents new money.
- East Egg – where Daisy lives, the more fashionable area.  
Represents old money







# East Egg v. West Egg





# Settings

- The City- New York City- where characters go for work and play
- The Valley of Ashes – the area between West Egg and NYC. It is desolate and filled with industrial waste. It represents social and moral decay as well as the effects of greed. Wilson's gas station is here as well.





## Symbols

- Green Light – at the end of Daisy's dock this light is visible from Gatsby's mansion. Represents Gatsby's hopes and dreams about Daisy.



## Symbols

- The Eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg – A decaying billboard in the Valley of Ashes with eyes advertising an optometrist. People think it may represent God's moral judgement on society.





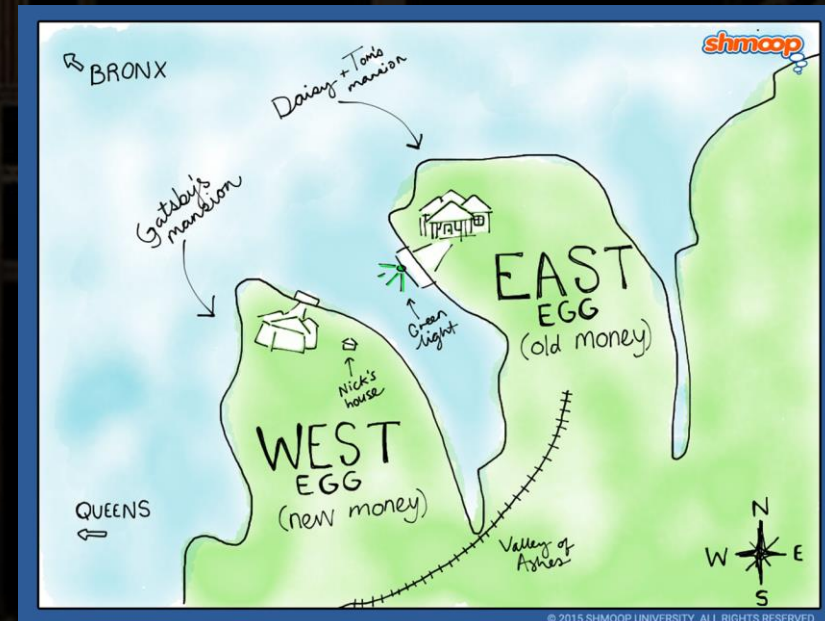
# Symbols

- The Valley of Ashes – the area between West Egg and NYC. It is desolate and filled with industrial waste. It represents social and moral decay as well as the effects of greed.



# Motifs (recurring structures or literary devices that help develop the text's major themes)

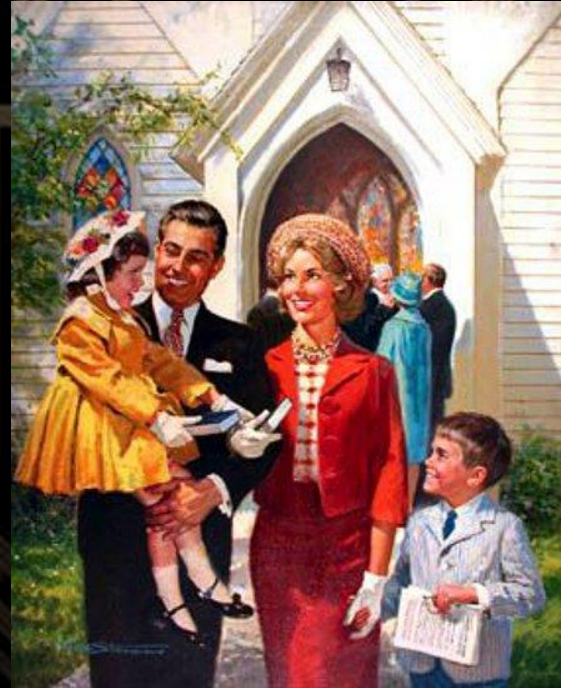
- Geographical Location
  - East Egg – elegance
  - West Egg – Newly Rich
  - Valley of Ashes – Social decay in the U.S.
  - New York – uninhibited behavior
  - East – Moral Decay
  - West – Morality and Idealism
- Weather
  - Rains when tone is sad
  - Smothering heat when Tom and Gatsby argue





# Theme (Universal Idea in text) – Decline of the American Dream

- In the past the American Dream was making money for noble goals and dreams.
- The American Dream becomes decadent spending and self-indulgence





# Theme: Hollow Upper Class

- East Egg
  - Old Money
  - Aristocrats
  - Tasteful, classic home
  - Elegant
- West Egg
  - Gaudy clothes and Loud Parties
  - Ostentatious houses
  - “Nouveau riche”
  - Looked down upon, as if not deserving riches





# A Novel of Contradictions

The setting is during the time of Prohibition, yet the alcohol flows.

It is the quintessential American novel, yet it was written by an ex-patriot (He wrote it in France).

The narrator claims to reserve all judgments, but he uses very judgmental language.

Daisy's voice is compelling, but she doesn't say anything of value.

And, perhaps in being so  
contradictory, it does, in fact,  
represent America itself -- both then  
and now.