

The Great Gatsby Background Info

Context is everything

Prohibition

- 1920 - 1933
- Banned the manufacture and distribution of alcohol
 - Did not ban drinking alcohol
- Surge in crime
 - Speakeasies
 - Organized crime



Classism

A definition

Classism – n. Prejudice against or in favor of people belonging to a particular social class

- Old money (think East Grand Rapids)
 - New money (think Forest Hills)
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WWI

- “The Great War”
- 24,117,800 total soldiers killed, wounded, or missing
- PTSD
- The Lost Generation



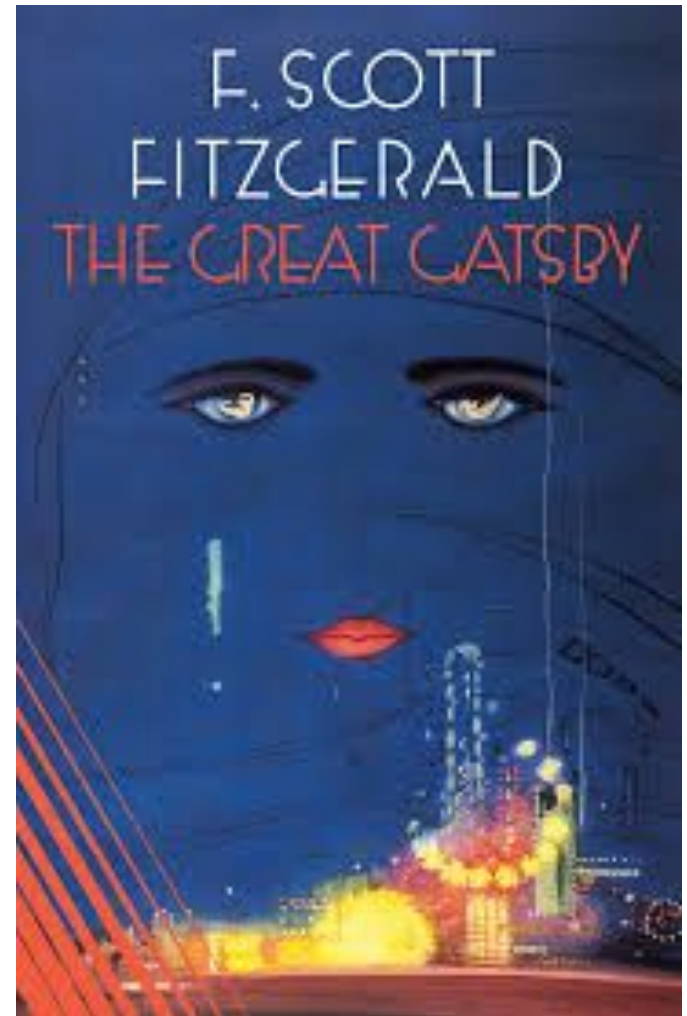
F. Scott Fitzgerald

- Fought in WWI
- Married Zelda Fitzgerald
- Health Issues
 - Alcoholism
 - Heart Attacks
 - Died at age 44 in 1940
- Published 5 novels, 3 novellas, & 10 short story collections
 - *The Great Gatsby* & “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”



The Great Gatsby

- Published in 1925
 - Became much more famous after Fitzgerald's death
- Important Ideas
 - The American Dream
 - Money & Social Class
 - Hope
 - Human Nature
 - "Love"



**Now, a very
important note...**

This is a story
about love,
but it is NOT
a love story.