

The Failure of the American Dream: *The Great Gatsby*

**Tubah Saika Islam
Student ID: 10103026**

**Department of English and Humanities
December 2014**



BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**The Failure of the American Dream: *The Great
Gatsby***

A Thesis

Submitted to the Department of English and Humanities

Of

BRAC University

By

Tubah Saika Islam

Student ID: 10103026

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

Bachelors of Arts in English

December 2014

I would like to dedicate this work to my beloved parents, because I believe that without them I would not have been able to reach at this stage

Lutfun Nahar

And

Maj. S. M Mohidul Islam

It is your enormous adoration and blessings that have made me what I am today.

Thank you for being the best parents on earth

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I want to thank the Almighty for blessing me with the force of information and knowledge which enabled me to compose this thesis paper. A sincere appreciation goes to my very affectionate thesis supervisor Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, who not just corrected my each and every slip-up with patience and composure all through the adventure, but also cheered me up, boosted my morale, at whatever point I bumbled or felt totally lost. Sincerely, you are one of the best tutors I have ever had in my life.

I might likewise want to thank some of my most respected Professors, Dr. Firdous Azim, S. Nisha Alam, Mushira Huq, Abu Sayeed Noman, Mahmuda Akhter and Professor Riaz P. Khan, whom I have aggravated every so often in regards to my work and they generally reacted with their insightful proposals to guide me.

Contents

Abstract	6
Introduction.....	8
Chapter One	15
Emergence of Fitzgerald's Early Life in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> .	
Chapter Two.....	20
Gatsby's Representation of the American Dream, Provision of the American Dream in the 1920s and the Exploration of the Idea of America	
Chapter Three	26
The Rejection of One's True Self	
Chapter Four.....	31
Things that makes Gatsby Truly Great	
Conclusion.....	35
Works Cited.....	36

Abstract

American Dream has distinctive implications for diverse individuals. To some, it implies that one can accomplish whatever one wants through living this dream which will take one to his/her desired objectives. To others, it is an open door that everybody wishes to enter through and in the event that they get the open door, at exactly that point would they be able to taste the delight of the American Dream. The Americans of the post world war era were so enthusiastic about achieving their cravings that they got to be uncontrollably vigorous about accomplishing a specific social position or an extravagant way of life. They considered bliss to be wrapped up inside the American Dream and that without that life would be without any pleasure and thus meaningless.

Fitzgerald has provided for us a sight of the individuals living in the roaring 1920s, where the people chase the American Dream under the materialistic influence of high society and put stock in piling up riches. Fitzgerald presents the genuine elements of American Dream alongside its advanced face to demonstrate that what individuals really think about this fantasy and which is lost perpetually to the American individuals.

The thesis looks at a particular group of characters who were occupied with perusing written work and all that much mindful of the evolving circumstances around them. So in a manner these individuals were the most acute sufferers; on the grounds that they could understand that how the social structure was changing and the how the greater part of the pure individuals were getting influenced with such progressions. These individuals were lost, on the grounds that they ended up being social oddballs in this new world. Women, who had begun to work outside, did not find it easy to adapt to the new world, as they were confronted with another social environment, new individuals and issues through which they needed to be acknowledged.

They needed to adopt an alternate way with respect to their physical appearance and conduct and thus chose not to take after the set codes of female behaviour. They felt that everything relied on upon individuals and an individual himself ought to choose what he wants to pick or not. So fundamentally we can say that they could not fit into the post-war society and these people were called the Lost Generation.

The thesis explores the manner in which F. Scott Fitzgerald highlights the failure of the American Dream through the lives of his characters. Gatsby's dream is to win Daisy back and so he relentlessly pursues what he did not have, namely material wealth. In the process he loses himself and fails to attain his dream.

This thesis is divided into four chapters, where several aspects have been discussed from different perspective. The novel *The Great Gatsby* is the primary source and I have used different articles and several writers' thoughts for writing this paper.

INTRODUCTION

There is no fitting definition to be found anywhere of the genuine vitality of the American Dream. The commonly followed notion is that of a perfectly tidy life with two children, a house with a white picket divider, and a perfect spouse. Regardless, the American Dream is not for the most part so obvious a thought. Historian James Truslow Adams in his book *Epic of America* mentions:

But there has been also the *American dream* that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.(p.-)

The Great Gatsby is Fitzgerald's amazing piece of writing, which highlights the time period and the circumstances of America after the First World War. Fitzgerald showed the lifestyle of the 1920s in the novel. *The Great Gatsby* takes place in the United States and the protagonist Gatsby chases the "American Dream". Fitzgerald uses Gatsby as a vehicle to explore the idea of the American Dream, which was a key element in shaping a modern American society and its citizens. The "dream" remains an illusion for the middle class while the people with old money, like Tom Buchanan, remain superficial and miserable. American Dream has different meanings for different people. To some, it means that if you work hard, you can achieve more prosperity and it will take you to your goals. To others, it is an opportunity that

everyone desires and if they get the opportunity, only then can they taste the pleasure of the American Dream. The Americans of that time period were so passionate about attaining their desires that they became wildly ardent about achieving a particular class or a lavish lifestyle. They considered happiness to be hidden inside the American Dream and that without that life would be incomplete. This time period became complete with all those people, who had so many things to show off. It was all about money, jazz and alcohol. It was a moment in time of joyful feelings and of course the never ending prosperity that we can call the 'American Dream'. Although many people believed that hard work and determination are the ways through which a person can be as wealthy as he wanted. Showing off was one of the main parts of their lives. The moneyed people use to attend and throw parties almost every day.

The Great Gatsby also shows how love was vital for person's existence. As we can see, first of all Gatsby and his lover Daisy Buchanan used to love each other madly because Gatsby was a young and brave soldier; also she fell in love with him as he was loyal and honest, but could not get married as one of the reasons was that he had left for the war. So later she got married with Tom Buchanan, who was a very rich person. He had honest money, though he was not a perfect life partner as he was also maintaining an illicit relationship, while he was already married. They even had a daughter. After some years when she met Gatsby again, her hidden love resurfaced. At this point we can say that maybe her love for him grew because she was attracted by what he had lacked before, namely money and a lavish lifestyle. However, despite having access to great wealth, Gatsby had chosen a less than noble or pure way to get it. One of the reasons that Gatsby wanted to become rich was his belief that if he becomes rich and gains the image of a high societal position then he will get Daisy's attention. That is why he used to throw gigantic parties so that whole crowds and the society that mattered can talk about the Great

Gatsby. This is how Daisy heard of his name and recalled Gatsby again. American Dream can always give people a better life and can fulfil their desires; after becoming a very wealthy man, Gatsby's American Dream was gaining Daisy's love.

The American Dream had become important for people as an effect of the First World War. The First World War destroyed many things. It affected the economy, the political situation, the psychology of people and also the personal life of each and every family. It was a big loss; loss of the mental condition of every individual. When the war ended, it left an entire generation in a state of misery and suffering. They were not psychologically and mentally fit anymore, because through the war people had to face so many difficulties, harshness, brutality in their lives that they forgot the real meaning of happiness. We can understand that after the World War, all these people or the whole group of this generation went through a lifetime of adjustment. They did not find their life as beautiful as before. Every time that they tried to adjust to the situation, they were faced with a change and a loss of values previously held dear. Values were most important, because at a time, women used to think twice before taking any step. They never thought of working outside or playing the role of a leader; but after the Great War all these values changed. They were forced to think from a different perspective. Before the World War, the family members used to do certain things as a matter of routine. Like, the father would go to work, the mother would work in the kitchen and look after the welfare of her husband and her children; but during and after the Great War, people had to suffer in many ways. A child did not find his father around anymore to deal with problems, because the father had left for the War. The wife did not know when or if her husband would return home. Sometimes the wives did not even know whether their husbands were alive or not. So these uncertainties of life became so dark for them that they did not know how to cope with the situation. Mainly this was the first

time even in the west when actually women were coming out from homes and working outside; because there was no one who could bring bread for the kids. Women had to think that how they can run their families and meet all the expenses as they did not have any other options left. So, we can see how the situation changed. They needed to run their families and for that reason they started to take care of both the house and their work. This way the family structure also changed. The children had to look after themselves and this is how they were brought up with a different set of values. So we can realize how the family system and the values changed. It was not so easy to cope with or adjust to and as a result people had to suffer mental trauma and psychological problems.

It takes generations to get used to a set of values and consequently a system of society and it is this disturbed society that Fitzgerald is talking about. It is the society that was dealing with post war conditions, starting with an entire nation to a family to an individual.

The changes greatly affected the economy. After a war, it happens that the poor become rich and the rich become poor. The rich people lose their income generating ventures, the industries close down, and everything is destroyed completely. The rich people may sometimes turn paupers overnight and find themselves on the street. This is the right time for corrupt people to take advantage of the opportunities. After the world war, the situation took a turn that many people who were under the upper class and never imagined to socialize with high class people, at that time by choosing a wrong path they have become stronger and reached to a better position. They become more powerful and rich. So we can see how the actual social structure changed and horribly affected people's psyche.

There was this group of young people who were interested in reading, writing and very much aware of the changing situation. So in a way these people were the most sufferers; because they could realize that how the economical and social structure was changing and most of the innocent people got affected with the changes. These people were lost, because they found themselves to be social misfits in this new world. Women, who had started to work outside, did not find it easy to cope with the new world, as they faced a new social environment, new people and problems through which they had to be accepted. Women had to follow a different manner regarding their physical appearance and behavior. At that time a group of women decided not to follow set codes of female behavior. They felt that everything depended on person to person and a person himself should decide that what he should choose or not. So basically we can say that they could not fit into the post war society.

Moreover, who have already suffered a lot and gone through mental trauma, he will never be able to adjust with the new changes. It is not easy for him to have pleasant memories, whereas he had already traumatic memories. So all these people were suffering from depression, because they were lost from everything they had. They did not have any idea that how they will take the changes and new values normally. Besides, The Lost Generation was a group of writers and artists likes F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, T.S. Elliot, and Ezra Pound. They used to live in Paris and also in other parts of Europe during World War and the Depression. They used to talk and discuss everything with each other. They had social connection and also they used to meet to have a conversation about their work. They were concern about the changes and the ongoing situation. Their writing was modernist writing, because their writing style reflected the situation and the lives that they were lived. The modernist movement is basically a movement from realism, where they portrayed stream of consciousness techniques, symbolism, which had

so many deeper meaning, etc. *The Great Gatsby* is an example of Fitzgerald's modern writing, because there are so many things which are jumbled up together. American Dream is the most important thing in this novel, which is people's desire to live lavish lifestyle. Fitzgerald has given us a sight of high class people of the roaring 20s, where the values are lost and it has transformed in to achieving American Dream; and also materialistic power of high society, who believes in gaining wealth and who have the lack of moral senses. Fitzgerald presents the actual aspects of American Dream along with its modern face to show that what people actually think of this dream and which is now lost forever to the American people. The American Dream that Gatsby chases is represented by a woman he loves the most, but cannot have as the situation has already changed. Daisy is modernistic, because she is not like the other woman of that period. Women were before more like family oriented, they had particular manners that they used to follow very strictly; whereas Daisy is completely the opposite. Moreover, she is loses her morality even when she was married. So we can see how she is modernistic, because she thinks that why can only men have multiple relationships. Women can have also multiple relationships and that is why she continues her relationship with Gatsby though she was married. Gatsby did know very well that Daisy is married with Tom Buchanan, who is a very rich guy. So it was not possible for him to get Daisy in his life and that is why he chases the American Dream; through following his dream, he becomes a very rich and wealthy man, but not through the best methods. Thus, Gatsby has now everything. He has beautiful house, he has lots of money, he throws party every day, and he has a lavish lifestyle, expensive cloths and all. Basically American Dream is the idea of success against all odds. When Gatsby was younger, he used to be a very hard working person. He was not less than a great man, because at that time he had the sense of morality; but we can see the affect of the post war. When people came from the war, they did not

find anything like before. Their family was lost, their wives were probably got married with another guy, and children did not know who their father is. Moreover war can never be a good experience, because it gives people the most harshness and brutal pictures in their mind. So basically they failed to come out from the depression. Throughout their life, they had to bear all those pictures and sufferings that they got from the war. Gatsby left his love Daisy, when he went for the war. At that time he was an honest and brave soldier, but when he came from the war, he got to know that Daisy was already married with a rich guy. So he had already depression in his mind and it multiplied twice when he realized that he cannot get his love anymore, because he had already lost everything. Hence he chases the American Dream, because he thought only this Dream can bring on Daisy back in his life again. Then we can see Gatsby is trying to establish his own value by accepting the values of society and attempting to live up to them; essentially, accumulating wealth. However, by buying into society's values he basically loses his integrity and individuality, and rather than succeeding in his quest, he is ultimately betrayed by the upper crust he aspired to become. If we consider existentialism as an attitude that insists on leaving the search for meaning with the individual, rather than allowing society to dictate to them randomly, then this would qualify as an example of existentialism.

However, American Dream is basically dead. Money is clearly identified as the main cause in the dream's death. It becomes easily tangled up with anticipation and achievement and replacing their positions in the American Dream with materialism.

Chapter: 1

Emergence of Fitzgerald's Early Life in *The Great Gatsby*.

The Great Gatsby, a novel composed by the American author Scott Fitzgerald. It was initially published in 1925 and considered as one of the classics of American writing and a standout amongst the most vital archives dated to define the Roaring Twenties. This period was a significant moment in the American lives, ethically, physically and socially; in which the American economy expanded, bringing exceptional levels of thriving to the country. Forbiddance, "the boycott on the deal and usage of liquor approved by the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1919), made moguls out of racketeers, and an underground society of celebration sprang up." Extensive private gatherings figured out how to escape police notice, and "speakeasies" mystery clubs that sold alcohol flourished. However, Fitzgerald called it "The Jazz Age" where the Americans were prepared to do anything, to be anyplace just to become rich and to live a lavish lifestyle. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* reflects the key occasions of his own life. The novelist utilized himself and individuals he existed with to describe individuals in the novel. Numerous likenesses can be found between Fitzgerald life and the primary characters in the novel, Jay Gatsby, and Daisy Buchanan.

Like Nick in *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald discovered this new way of life alluring and stimulating, and in the same way as Gatsby, he had constantly loved the exceptionally rich. Presently he ended up in a period in which extreme realism set the tone of society, especially in the huge urban communities of the East. Indeed along these lines, in the same way as Nick, Fitzgerald saw through the sparkle of the Jazz Age to the ethical emptiness and trickery underneath. From numerous points of view, *The Great Gatsby* speaks to Fitzgerald's attempt to go up against his conflicting feelings about the Jazz Age. Like Gatsby, Fitzgerald was

determined by his affection for a lady who symbolized all that he needed, even as she headed him to all that he disliked.

In the first place, there are a considerable measure of resemblance in the middle of Fitzgerald and the hero of the novel "Gatsby". Both Gatsby and Fitzgerald cherished frantically. Scott Fitzgerald dedicated his life to addition Zelda's affection. He worked in promoting and composing short stories, yet he was not able to persuade her that he would have the capacity to help her. This made Zelda break their engagement. Consequently, he began composing numerous books to addition a great deal of cash and wed Zelda. When he got to be rich and well known, he wedded Zelda. Despite the fact that she had a mental illness, her spouse did not abandon her. He cherished her profoundly. The same feeling was in Gatsby towards Daisy. He adored Daisy so much; but the last did not allow marrying him for he was a poor man and had nothing to fulfill Daisy's necessities. Hence, Gatsby tried his hardest to increase cash and win Daisy's affection. In spite of the fact that Daisy decided to wed Tom, an extremely rich man from the East egg, Gatsby did not lose to recapture her adoration. He buckled down on Dan Cody's yacht, after Daisy wedded Tom, where he turned into an affluent well-mannered fellow who had an enormous house where the greatest gatherings are held. His gatherings demonstrate that the rich individuals amid the Jazz Age are simply an impression of society around then. His point behind arranging such gatherings was to amaze Daisy, who said "Rich young ladies don't wed poor young men", and make her adoration him once more. An alternate similitude in the middle of Fitzgerald and Gatsby is that both of them had humble beginnings, they were poor from the lower class, and tried to end up more than what their fathers were, by climbing to accomplish popularity and wealth. Fitzgerald planned to get a decent artistic status through composing books. In spite of, individuals said that he was alcoholic and he was not in charge of

what he was composing. The same thing happened to Gatsby when individuals began designing bits of gossip about him and saying that he is a slaughterer and numerous different things. While, he was simply a man attempting to recover his first love. Notwithstanding that, both Gatsby and Fitzgerald went to renowned colleges and partook in the ww1. Fitzgerald went to few non-public schools and went to Princeton University. Like Fitzgerald, Gatsby went to Oxford University. An alternate purpose of similitude can be seen between Zelda Sayre, Fitzgerald's wife, and one of the fundamental characters in the novel Daisy Buchanan, the first love of Gatsby. Daisy Buchanan was the common portrayal of the rich, wedded lady of the 1920's. She exemplified the qualities of a flapper lady from the thundering twenties "The Jazz Age". She was a materialistic lady. Daisy and Gatsby were divided by a class qualification in light of the fact that Daisy originated from a blue-blooded family in the east egg and Gatsby was an officer with no position in the public ground or society. Like Daisy, Zelda originated from a rich family .she was a very modern lady, forming the flapper way of life. She saw that cash made everything excellent. That is the reason she cut off her engagement with Scott when she questioned in Fitzgerald's capacity to keep up her materialistic way of life. Moreover, both Zelda and Daisy were unreliable wives. The main thing they think about was cash. Zelda, when she conceived her girl "Scottie" she said: "I hope she'll be a fool. That's the best thing a girl can be in this world". What has been said by Zelda was rehashed by Daisy in the novel when she had another child and wished her to be a wonderful little moron.

In *The Great Gatsby*, parallels can be drawn between the novel and Scott Fitzgerald's own particular life. Gatsby and Fitzgerald's craving for accomplishment through disappointment, the way that Gatsby and Fitzgerald both "adored and lost", and in addition Fitzgerald and Gatsby's imparted peculiarity, for example, liquor addiction. Then again, the main parallel that

can be drawn between *The Great Gatsby* and Scott Fitzgerald's own particular life is the fantasies of achievement that drive both Jay Gatsby and Scott Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was never ready to achieve the acclaim that he required after all through his abstract life, yet had the capacity experience his fantasies of riches and accomplishment through Jay Gatsby. Like Fitzgerald, Gatsby originated from an exceptional starting.

The following similarity between Fitzgerald's life and Jay Gatsby's life is both of their solid conclusions of liquor. In the novel, Gatsby was portrayed as a solid against alcoholic, who never touched an alcohol mixed drink, not even at his own particular gatherings. He acts thusly on the grounds that in his previous life, Gatsby needed to deal with a man who uses to be tipsy constantly. His encounters convinced Gatsby of the unhelpful impact liquor has on the body. Like Gatsby, Fitzgerald additionally has his offer of encounters with liquor. Fitzgerald was a substantial alcoholic through the majority of his life and his encounters of leaving alcohol were likely the principle of Gatsby's decision to avoid drinking.

The last parallel that can be drawn in the middle of Gatsby and Fitzgerald is their adoration lives that I have already discussed. In *The Great Gatsby*, Gatsby gives his life to charming the excellent Daisy Buchanan. Like Gatsby, Fitzgerald additionally gave much of his time to attempting to inspire the dazzling Zelda. Not at all like Gatsby, nonetheless, Fitzgerald succeeded in his mission for affection and wound up wedding Zelda. On account of the clear similitude between Scott Fitzgerald's life and the storyline of *The Great Gatsby*, it is evident that Fitzgerald has utilized encounters as a part of his own life to shape the world Jay Gatsby exists in. Similarly, Fitzgerald never knew whom he would experience in his social round of movers and shakers and was unwilling to judge them.

“The universe of Ivy Leaguers and independent businesspeople and the leftovers of cash and society were now and then populated by individuals with shaded pasts who gathered their newly discovered riches in under upright ways.” “This was the world Fitzgerald grew up in, desiring with all the intensity of his nature to succeed according to its standards and always conscious of hovering socially on the edge of it, alternating between assertion and uncertainty because of his acute awareness that his foothold was unsure” (Mizener 13)

In this way, Fitzgerald, whose hopeful career was checked by rejection from specific games and clubs, also separated from, recognized society.

“This power of understanding and of sympathy, with the feeling of intimacy it bred, that Fitzgerald at his best brought to his personal relations carries over into his best stories and gives these stories an effect unique in twentieth-century fiction” (Mizener xx)

To finish up with, through the characters utilized within his novel, Scott Fitzgerald depicted his own particular individual life. All the occasions in the novel reflect the genuine story of the essayist and *Gatsby* is a mirror reflecting the life of an author who has committed his life with a specific end goal to keep his adoration or love; Whereas, Daisy reflected Fitzgerald's wife who was searching for the ideal honorable man with a considerable measure of cash and a decent family foundation.

Chapter 2

Gatsby's Representation of the American Dream, Provision of the American dream in the 1920s and the Exploration of the Idea of America

There is no proper definition to be discovered anywhere of the authentic importance of The American Dream. Any faith, dream, or objective which was sought after by anybody in the historical background of America is on an American Dream. In advanced times the known dream is by all accounts 2.5 kids, a house with a white picket wall, and a flawless mate. In any case, as it is indicated all through writing from the beginning of America to modern times the American Dream is not generally so clear-cut an idea.

America was initially established on the fantasy of opportunity. Individuals have opportunity to seek after what they need. That is the model behind the American Dream. Early stories in American writing are about individuals' chase for the option to love however they wanted. An alternate adaptation of the American Dream is the trust that workers had of building a superior life for their youngsters than they had, as indicated in the book "My Antonia" by Willa Cather. An alternate is the mission for acknowledgement, which is indicated in the book "Black Boy" by Richard Wright. An alternate is basically the wish to stay alive, as indicated in the book "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding. Whatever the fantasy is, the most fascinating thing that can be examined or illustrated, is the way of individuals to achieve it. This is best demonstrated in *The Great Gatsby*.

The Great Gatsby, a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, is about the American Dream, and the ruin of the individuals who attempt to achieve it. The American Dream means different things to diverse individuals; however for Jay Gatsby, the protagonist of the novel, the fantasy is that

through obtaining treasures and influences, one can likewise pick up bliss. To achieve his concept of what bliss is, Gatsby must back down in time and encounter again an old dream. To do this, he accepts, he should first have riches and influence.

Jay Gatsby is a man who does not wish to live in the present in light of the fact that it offers him nothing. He uses the greater part of his grown-up life attempting to recover his past and, eventually, dies in his quest for it. The reason he wishes to remember the past is that he had a relationship with the rich Daisy Buchanan, who felt greatly charmed by him. Nonetheless, he realized that they could never get married because of the distinction in their financial and social statuses. He wanted to wed her, but as he was economically unstable he abandons her to earn money and to get a higher societal position. When he achieves his objective of picking up the suitable measure of riches, he purchases a house which is near hers "Gatsby bought that house so Daisy would be just across the bay (p 83)." He throws enormous, wasteful gatherings, with the expectation that she may happen to appear at one of them. Gatsby does not really even go to these gatherings, as he is a sad standardize individual; rather he just watches them from a distance, inside his home. Before long he develops tiredness of holding up for Daisy to show up, so he tries to see whether anybody knows her by making an inquiry or two. Certainly he meets Nick Carraway, the storyteller of the novel, who is a cousin of Daisy. After some discourse Nick consents to set up a meeting between Gatsby and Daisy. Gatsby's close to home dream symbolizes a bigger interpretation of the American Dream where everybody has the chance to attempt to get what they need. Later on in the novel, it is demonstrated that Gatsby conceives that Daisy feels the same feelings about him that he does about her. It demonstrates that he is persuaded of this when he takes the fault for the downfall of Myrtle. He says that he was driving when it was actually Daisy. He additionally feels the need to watch over her when she returns her

home after the accident. Unluckily for him, Gatsby can't come out to acknowledge the way that the past is over and gone. He is resolved to catch his fantasy and is sure that he can do this in view of his riches and influence. Nick Carraway tries to show Gatsby the purposelessness in attempting to satisfy his fantasy by guaranteeing Gatsby that nobody can remember the past in any case, no matter how hard the attempt is; however Gatsby is certain that he can and answers "Yes you can, old sport (155)." This demonstrates the certainty that he has in his American Dream. His fantasy, in spite of the fact that it may appear that way, is not material riches, cash, or economic wellbeing; He just adds these things and trusts that he can satisfy what is truly his American Dream, his love for Daisy.

Gatsby declines to surrender until he achieves the satisfaction of his American Dream. The miserable thing is that he never does, and he eventually died without making it happen. There is one truth about the thought of the American Dream, whether it's a superior life for one's kids, acknowledgement, or only survival; everybody needs something out of life and everybody, in their own particular path, tries to get it.

The American dream is the ticket held by a lot of people in the United States of America that through diligent work, spirit and determination one can attain blooming. These were qualities held by a lot of people early European colonizers, and have been passed on to following eras. What the American dream has gotten to be is an address under general examination. The American Dream is an individual thing. Each individual's conviction or thought on what the American Dream is not the same as any other person. There is one recognizable consistent idea between every trustworthy Dream however; the fantasy is to carry on with a greater life socially, financially, or happily than your folks did.

Dr. Martin Luther King existed in a period of racial isolation. He grew up with the individuals who disrespected him essentially due to the shade of his skin. When he started a group of his own, he had the fantasy that life should be superior to the life he had. He walked challenges and gave addresses, talking his fantasy to everybody who would tune in. His most celebrated discourse being the “I have a dream speech...” This discourse discussed his fantasy that all men were equivalent whether they were white, or dark, or some other shade of skin. Before Dr. King came, People of all countries Immigrated to this nation to have a finer life. A finer life than their guardians had. They had either experienced childhood in neediness or more terrible. When they moved to America, they had longs for Opportunity and riches to backing their families. Numerous families discovered these opportunities and succeeded in their American Dream. Their lives were wealthier and more satisfied than some time recently. Others did not achieve their objectives, yet at the same time held tight to their American Dream of the place where there are new chances at life or we can say “the land of Opportunity”.

Today, individuals’ fantasies changed by and by of what America is to them once. Today, numerous folks have the fantasy for a finer family life than they had. Family life has changed. Numerous individuals are getting separates and having stepchildren. These kids have adult with the American Dream of giving a finer Family life by financially supporting them better, investing more of a chance with them, and communicating their loved ones all the more willfully.

Each individual’s conviction or thought on what the American Dream is not the same as any other person. Each fantasy has one thing in like manner however. It is the bringing about a significant improvement life than they had adult with; whether it is financially, jointly, or essentially to live with a more comfortable nature than their guardians did. America is the area

with the most visionaries. America is the place where there is fresh chances to succeed and equality. In America your fantasies can be satisfied on the off chance that you try to accomplish your objectives. The American dream to most is, to be rich and to have the capacity to manage the cost of anything. Riches is an in addition to in life on the grounds that you can bear the cost of costly things that do not essentially have an utilization, yet it does not fundamentally make a difference how hard you attempt or the extent to which you use you cannot purchase bliss. Even though being affluent can fulfill you materialize to be on the outside, within you would not be as upbeat as you appear. In the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the creator demonstrates how being affluent would not make you upbeat. Numerous individuals have voiced their suppositions of the American dream.

In the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the creator tries to demonstrate that being a wealthiest is an extravagance not the American dream.

“I thought of Gatsby’s wonder when he first picked out that green light at the end of Daisy’s dock. He had come a long way to this blue lawn and his dreams must have seemed so close that he can hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night.” (Fitzgerald)

To put in easier terms now and again your American dream can be close to the point that you can taste it however it is not close enough to nibble it. F. Scott Fitzgerald depicted his perspective of the American dream through a character named Jay Gatsby. In the novel Jay Gatsby’s American dream was to recover an old better half by flaunting his riches; however all

he got was a slug or a bullet that finished him. In the novel he also said that “everyone has an American dream and sometimes surpasses it in the process of grasping it.” Gatsby

A portion of the real convictions behind the Declaration of Independence are that everybody is free during childbirth and has the same probability as other people in life. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”(Jefferson).

However as a rule this is false, not everybody has the same open doors. Most individuals do achieve their objectives and most individuals attempt and attempt again yet get no place in life. A considerable measure of Americans are existing the American dream however in the event that you ask them for what good reason they felt that way, they would doubtlessly say that it is on account of they have cash and can accommodate themselves and their families, yet others would say that they are not given the same opportunity as others.

From most points of view the American dream is something you endeavor to fulfill. Despite the fact that you may feel like you exist the American dream, an individual may have the capacity to surpass and over accomplish their limits. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both expressed how to attain your objectives and provided for you a way to begin on. F. Scott Fitzgerald demonstrated in his novel, *The Great Gatsby*, how one individual can seek after his fantasy of bliss and fall flat. The Film, “The Pursuit of Happiness” demonstrated how some individuals can collapse down, seek after, and set objectives to achieve and surpass their objectives and dreams. All American dreams are situated and sought after in typical ways and everybody has diverse approaches to accomplish them.

Chapter 3

The Rejection of One's True Self

In the realm of Jay Gatsby, beliefs and qualities are characterized by the general public. The society itself is faced with false values which put essentialness on realism and corruption, slighting ethical quality and the deep sense of being. In *The Great Gatsby*, these qualities are exemplified through the mixture and duplication of West and East. The Mid West of America is symbolized by Nick and Gatsby who represent good respectability, otherworldly existence and purity while the East Coast of America where the Buchanans live represents kindness, material riches and immorality. The capacity of the characters is to improve these qualities relying upon where they originate from. Nick is a self-portrayed good individual "I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known" yet Tom Buchanan from the East is represented as a heartless, 'supremacist womanizer' who may be 'remiss' in utilizing and letting "other individuals clean up the chaos [he] had made." So, the American Dream fundamentally prompted the social idea that on the off chance that you have cash then you can have anything. All these systems are utilized to emphasize the significant part of society in characterizing social qualities and thirst. In this way the single person, trying to attain satisfaction, will battle for the values that society forces on him. They hold the social goals but eventually give up, keeping in mind the end goal. Again, if we think about Daisy, then we can consider Daisy selfish in a sense; As in *The Great Gatsby*, she is the one who picked Tom over Gatsby twice, makes the honor of affection for societal position and material ownership. She continues through Tom's evident acts of unfaithfulness to attain the comfort and respectability that the superficial society requests and she puts significance on outwards appearance with her wish that her little girl would be "a fool – that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." Indeed Gatsby's feeling of perfect is no more of

what which his people can offer him. Everything about Jay Gatsby is focused around what James Gatz accepts that society would discover pleasing as he does not appreciate his own particular wild gatherings, which demonstrates that he does this for the purpose of a socially acknowledged picture instead of individual taste, that he is “the advertisement of a man” not the genuine man himself. Without a doubt Gatsby receives society’s false values and he utilizes other men’s desire as his standard of worth, a motivation behind why he discovered Daisy so engaging in any case, “many men had already loved Daisy - it increased her value in his eyes”. The most huge outcome distinguished and considered by Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* that of disengagement from a bigger group as the aftereffect of the dismissal of one’s actual self, which happens when an individual makes and undertakings a false self.

Fitzgerald depicts parts of high society in Long Island, New York, and from the opening of *The Great Gatsby*, the reader gets to be exceptionally mindful of how critical social class is to the character of the characters; it is through social class that people characterize themselves and decide how they will relate with others.

Nick convinces the readers of the different layers that exist inside the high class of any society where class is so essential, for there are the rich and afterward there are the wealthier. As Mizener observe, “the divisions among the class elements are as sharp as the divisions between poor and rich, though they may not be so obvious, and they are made possible and sustained by social inequality and inequity” (44). There is additionally, above all, the figure of Gatsby, who is hard to arrange inside this chain an importance of riches. Gatsby develops a character of riddle, yet his personality is truly bound up in his social class. The splendid gatherings that Gatsby has on Saturday nighttimes are the ‘see-and- be-seen’ occasions of Long Island, and no slight element is ignored in the event that it means guaranteeing the comfort and joy of Gatsby’s

uniquely welcomed visitors. Yet nobody knows who Gatsby truly is. There are open thoughts about his family and class, and numerous party people are interested with reference to how he has collected his riches. Gatsby turns an arrangement of stories about his experience, including a reference to having been “educated at Oxford” (Fitzgerald 69). While there are some harassment questions, with Nick getting to be progressively unsure about whether, it is not until the end of the novel that Gatsby is uncovered as having imaginary himself. He is really from a modest, poor and low class family from Minnesota, and he changed everything about his experience to reflect the individual he needed to be, instead of the individual he truly was. At last, this advancement toward oneself, on the grounds that it grasped a false self, truly just served to keep Gatsby sincerely and socially disengaged, despite the fact that he was always included by individuals. While he was respected by the privileged, the consideration of which he was so nervous to addition, his disappointment to grant his actual character kept him from being truly connected with others in a significant manner.

To begin with, social class shapes character in ways that are not generally aware to individuals, yet which bring about strict divisions. Secondly, those divisions have aggressive suggestion for society, on the grounds that they set individuals against each other and make social separation. Individuals cannot be their actual selves, on the grounds that they are disconnected from society and accordingly are not known, or on the grounds that they feel bound to make a false character so as to be known.

“In *The Great Gatsby*, the individual can pass on as the outcome, either specifically or in a roundabout way, of such imprisonment. Along these lines, the message of the novel is by all accounts that the divisions of social class are dangerous and that association must to be looked for and fashioned at whatever point believable”. Sam Mendes

Still, it must be noted that not all characters are similar to the previously stated in their tributes, as regardless of what the general public manages, the capacity to pick still lies in the force of the single person. While society may have its rules of social capability, it is dependent upon the individual whether to take after the rules. Nick, the voice of *The Great Gatsby*, is at first pulled in to the riches of the East yet after understanding that it makes a furious, careless way of life without substance or otherworldly existence, rejects it at last.

“This milestone is marked by Nick’s return to the Mid-West, which is symbolic of his rejection of the superficiality, materialism and amoral disposition of the East and his embracement of the traditional, wholesome values of the Mid-West”. Sam Mendes

Yet the decisions that an individual makes reflect the relationship between him or her and their general public. How the individual sees the way of their society is shown in their decision of damages, and it is additionally the same with the measure of control left in them that is not given over to society. In *The Great Gatsby*, Gatsby honestly tangles himself to a continuous example of impression for he has permitted society to assume control him. Subsequently, in light of the fact that he discovers social acknowledgement so key in winning the regard of Daisy, he surrendered anything undesirable which is everything about poor Jimmy Gatz. He transforms himself into the well off Jay Gatsby, “a Platonic conception of himself” and in creating his individual history and building a perfect picture out of magazines, Gatsby loses his true self. While his fantasy may be clean and tidy and exchangeable, he builds it in light of social low qualities and realism which involves that when the fantasy is destroyed and he neglects to accomplish Daisy, he is strongly dead for all his worthlessness gets to be minor and pointless. In the last minutes of his life, Nick imagines Gatsby understanding the emptiness of his life, his absence of genuine self, having lost along the way to his fantasy, “A new world, material without

being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air.” The expression judgment of “ghosts” is the thing that Gatsby truly has gotten to be, for he is basically a performer with no genuine body or personality of his own, having carried on with his life as indicated by social orders values, not his own. In this way the relationship between an individual and society is a vital obstacle in the degree of damages they make.

Finally, it is the relationship between the individual and his or her overall population which is in the end responsible for the harms he or she makes. Freely, the overall population and individual have up only two effects, and are not the true explanations behind the harms; the overall population describes values and dreams, of which the individual has the choice to attempt and battle for. Rather it is the complex flow between the two that triggers the present. Individuals who stick to and regard social values will make the best offers up to achieve socially orientated destinations. If the goals are unworthy or false, the individual may however lose themselves significantly along the way. Yet individuals who disagree with society and control social qualities will consider those targets as undeserving and their offerings for it will be little to none.

Doubtlessly, these individuals will give up social longings for individual fulfillment and qualities. Through the characters in *The Great Gatsby*, F.s. Fitzgerald seems to interpret that this last way is better and give way to more useful results.

Chapter 4

Things that makes Gatsby Truly Great

F. Scott Fitzgerald, in his novel makes Gatsby as an issue which gets to be incredible. He starts life as simply as a common, lower-class citizen. Gatsby carries the dream of getting affluent; when he meets Daisy, he has the motivation to try hard to this end. For the duration of his life, Gatsby picks up the title of positively being extraordinary or great.

Indeed before Gatsby is presented, he is indicated at being strange. The primary confirmation of this is when Nick says, "Gatsby turned out all right at the end." (2) Nothing was talked about Gatsby at the time and Nick is stating Gatsby was alright. There was an air of secrecy surrounding Gatsby. Everybody knows him; but actually nobody knows who he truly is or where he originates from. Indeed at our first look of Gatsby, he is connecting for something no one but he can see.

There were numerous stories flying about Gatsby yet nobody recognized what to truly accept. In one occurrence Jordan made the remark, "I think he killed a man." (49) Even when Gatsby admitted about his past he did not generally come clean. He told Nick he inherited incredible riches, however truly, Gatsby picked up his riches all alone. Despite the fact that Gatsby lied, the way that he made himself is more important than anything else.

Gatsby was constantly great on a fundamental level. When he was still James Gatz, he had the desire of living his life in high society. Gatsby's father knew when he said, "If he'd lived, he'd of been a great man." (169) it seems that his father realizes that Gatsby was incredible. Gatsby did not generally make the best decision to add to his riches.. His first genuine break in the outside world was the point at which he met his closest companion Dan Cody.

Gatsby was seventeen at the time and had quite recently left his life on the farmhouse. Cody was an affluent man of fifty and he indicated Gatsby the methods for the world. It was said that Cody discovered Gatsby to be "... quick and extravagantly ambitious." (101) He took Gatsby in and treated him practically as an issue. Gatsby was to inherit some of Cody's riches after his passing however was exposed of his legacy by Ella Kaye.

After Gatsby was acquainted with Daisy, she was the main thing that mattered to him. It takes an extraordinary man to have that sort of adoration for one individual. Despite the fact that Daisy did not merit Gatsby's affection, he was dependable to her to the end. Daisy was both the primary driver of Gatsby's significance, furthermore the main reason for absurdity in his life. His total adoration and commitment for her is the thing that devastated him, even before his passing.

Gatsby and Nick both served as officers in the war and he told Nick "Then the war came ... it was a great relief, and I tried very hard to die ... "(66) Gatsby knew he was not adequate for Daisy and ruin would have been a simple way out. On the other hand, Gatsby survived the war, and with distinction also. Actually a mid war times Gatsby showed his significance in being a great soldier. Upon his come back to America, he focused on winning Daisy back.

Gatsby's life between the war and when he was presented in the book is very obscure. It is known later that he eventually started a new business with a man named Meyer Wolfsheim. Wolfsheim was a man who had shady past and potential associations with the Mafia. Gatsby, then again, covered his associations well regardless of the possibility that the stories do fly.

All through the book Gatsby is a thoughtful host but a secret one. He is once in a while seen at his extreme gatherings however does not generally appear to brain that he misses them. It is figured out later that he just held the gatherings to check whether Daisy would come. He

generally handles himself like a genuine noble man. Indeed in clumsy minutes, for example, his gatherings with Daisy's spouse Tom. There was one time when Gatsby lost his anger and that was the point at which he was to see Daisy without occasion for a long time. He unexpectedly got to be as careless as an issue. He had worked for so long to please Daisy and seeing her would be the instant of truth.

Gatsby got a kick out of the chance to show off his riches to his companions. He gives voyages through his home to Daisy and Nick and he generally has a remarkable clarification for his belonging. But he handles his significance with good posture. He was additionally pleased with his gaudy auto however never knew it would be the reason for his ruin. He had few house visitors however treated them reasonably.

At the point when Daisy returned into Gatsby's life it was similar to skimming on air for him, in any event in the first place. She had adored Gatsby yet did not have the tolerance to hold up for him. She was substance to take part in an extramarital mess with Gatsby yet be hitched to Tom. She would not like to settle on a choice. She was obligated to settle on one and her decision crushed Gatsby. He never really accepted that he would lost however where it counts he knew. He anticipated that Daisy will pick him and could not acknowledge whatever other reaction. He had worked very hard to win.

Towards the end Gatsby would not abandon Daisy. After the mishap in which Daisy slaughtered Mrs. Wilson, that was the end of their relationship but "He could not possibly leave Daisy until he knew what she was going to do. He was clutching at some last hope ..." (148) Daisy could not in any way, shape or imagine the way that she may go to prison and she knew

Gatsby would take the blame on himself. That would be the last incredible thing Gatsby would accomplish for Daisy. "He felt married to her that was all."(149)

Gatsby may have possessed the capacity to abstain from being slaughtered by Mr. Wilson yet he truly did not have any more motivation to live. Daisy was again with Tom, he had lost the majority of his supposed companions who used to gathering at his home, and he truly did not have any genuine companions, aside from perhaps Nick. Nick saw the significance in Gatsby. He even said to Gatsby, "They are a rotten crowd. You are worth the whole damn bunch put together." (154) that would be the last time he identifies with Gatsby.

It was tragic after Gatsby's downfall that so few individuals came to grieve for him. His father appeared after reading about his child's demise in a daily paper. Nick was dependably there until the end.

Gatsby was an extraordinary man who had touched few individuals in permanent ways. He made Nick acknowledge what riches could do to an individual. He had held Daisy's adoration all through her marriage, regardless of the fact that she did leave him at last. Furthermore he was dependably a theme of dialog wherever he went.

Gatsby genuinely was an extraordinary man. He originated from a usual foundation and developed himself to where he finished. He adored Daisy genuinely and made a life for himself. It takes an incredible individual to take what they have, and get to where they dream to be. He was faithful to the end, never lost from his fantasy once.

Gatsby chases the American Dream, but his dream collapses when he failed to win Daisy back and their illicit relationship was not accepted by the upper class. Instead of choosing Gatsby

Daisy chose Tom and it was the major failure of his American Dream. So, without his dream Gatsby has no purpose to live as the American Dream failed.

F. Scott Fitzgerald shows that the American Dreams are shattered and it does not matter anymore whether it is about money, materials or happiness. Gatsby imagined a perfect life, but without any hopes or desire life cannot be perfect. When Gatsby realizes that the dream he had from his life is going to be incomplete, he breaks down completely. Though the American Dream is admirable for people, but it is impossible to gain the full pleasure from the American Dream, thus Gatsby failed to achieve his American Dream.

Conclusion

The Great Gatsby highlights the time period of 1920' and discussed about the circumstances of America after the Post World War and Gatsby's pursues of the American Dream and its failure.

The failure of American Dream and the lost generation in the Great Gatsby provide us the idea that how few things influenced individuals economically, rationally, and in every other conceivable ways. In the Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald portrayed the American Dream as a brutal reality of people's life and shows the condition of the society where people were lost because of the influences of the Great War. Corruption, brutality, and another structure of the society was a riddle for them to cope up.

Through this thesis paper, we can observe how ones is rejecting his actual self and considering the social orders to lead as his own particular dream and following the path that the society wants him to follow. By emulating these paths an individual can be extraordinary, but he refuses to understand that for being uncommon he is actually surrendering his satisfaction, joy and bliss.

Bibliography

Adams, James Truslow. *Epic of America*, 1931, Library of Congress. American Memory. "What is the American Dream?"

Brucoli, Matthew J. "A Brief Life of Fitzgerald." F. Scott Fitzgerald Centenary. University of South Carolina. 4 December 2003. Web.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Collier, 1991. Giltrow, Janet, & David

Fitzgerald, F S. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1995. Print.

Fitzgerald, F S. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1995. Print.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1925.

"Great Gatsby And The American Dream". Anti Essays. 21 Oct. 2014
<<http://www.antiessays.com/free-essays/Great-Gatsby-And-The-American-Dream-112987.html>> <http://www.sc.edu/fitzgerald/biography.html>.

McCord Museum. "The Roaring Twenties." Our People, Our Stories. Web. http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/keys/games/game_0_1920s/.

McKay, Nelly. Jean Toomer, Artist: A Study of His Life and Literary Work, 1894-1936. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1984.

Mizener, Arthur. *The Far Side of Paradise: A Biography of F. Scott Fitzgerald*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1965.

"Modernism In *The Great Gatsby*." [123HelpMe.com](http://www.123HelpMe.com). 28 Oct 2014
<<http://www.123HelpMe.com/view.asp?id=161927>>.

"Roaring 20s and *the Great Gatsby*". Anti Essays. 21 Oct. 2014
<http://www.antiessays.com/free-essays/Roaring-20S-And-The-Great-Gatsby-407560.html>

"Roaring Twenties And The Great Gatsby." [123HelpMe.com](http://www.123HelpMe.com). 21 Oct 2014
<<http://www.123HelpMe.com/view.asp?id=157614>>.

Stouck. "Style as Politics in *The Great Gatsby*." [Studies in the Novel](#) 29 (1997): 476

"The Art of Sacrifice as portrayed in the "*Great Gatsby*" by F.S. Fitzgerald and
"American Beauty" directed by Sam Mendes." WriteWork.com. WriteWork.com, 07 April,
2008. Web. 28 Oct. 2014.