

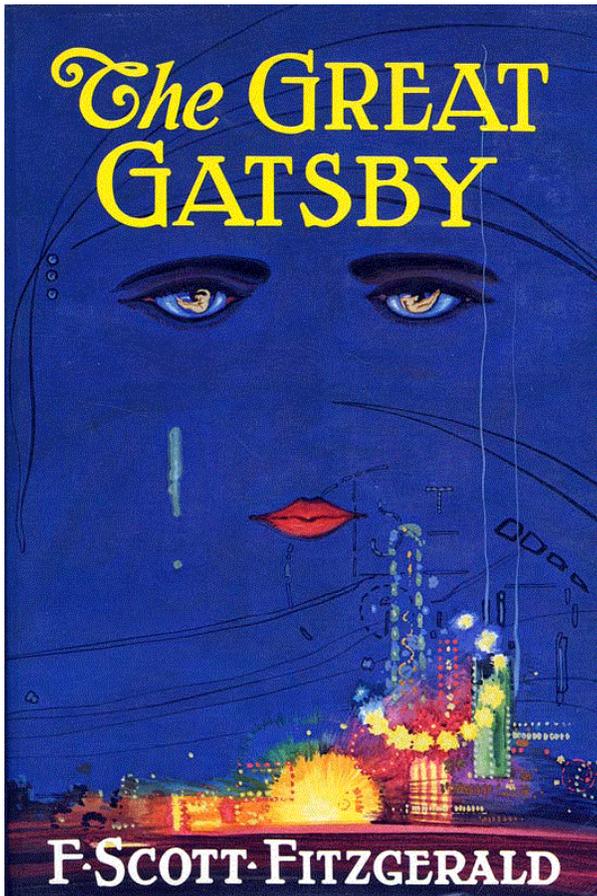
**Book Club – Monday, November 18 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

# 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Literary classic and "Great American Novel" contender...**

*The Great Gatsby* is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story primarily concerns the

young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his quixotic passion for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan. Considered to be Fitzgerald's magnum opus, *The Great Gatsby* explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess, creating a portrait of the Jazz Age that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream.



Fitzgerald, inspired by the parties he attended while visiting Long Island's north shore, began planning the novel in 1923 desiring to produce, in his words, "something new—something extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned." Progress was slow with Fitzgerald completing his first draft following a move to the French Riviera in 1924. His editor, Maxwell Perkins, felt the book was too vague and convinced the author to revise over the next winter. Fitzgerald was ambivalent about the book's title, at various times wishing to re-title the novel *Trimalchio in West Egg*.

First published by Scribner's in April 1925, *The Great Gatsby* received mixed reviews and sold poorly; in its first year, the book sold only 20,000 copies. Fitzgerald died in 1940, believing himself to be a failure and his work forgotten. His work, spearheaded by *The Great Gatsby*, experienced a revival during World War II, and the novel became a part of American high school curricula in the following decades. The book has remained popular since, leading to numerous stage and film adaptations. *The Great Gatsby* is widely considered to be a literary classic and a contender for the title "Great American Novel". *The Great Gatsby* is consistently ranked among the greatest works of American literature.

**The 2013 film adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* will be shown at the Senior Center on Thursday, November 14 & Monday, November 25. Showtime is 12:30 p.m. Consider having lunch through the Senior Dining program before the movie...details at the front desk.**

