*The Great Gatsby* – Discussion Questions Chapter 4

1. List the details that Gatsby tells Nick about Gatsby’s life.

2. Going back to chapter 1 when Gatsby is reaching for the green light, what is new information about that light? What do you suppose it means?

3. What is your impression of the kind of person Mr. Wolfsheim is?

4. What is Wolfsheim’s role in the novel?

5. Explain what happened with their relationship after Gatsby and Daisy met.

6. Why do you think Fitzgerald included the long list of Gatsby’s summer guests?

7. What do you think is the truth about Gatsby’s background?  Is all of what Gatsby tells Nick true, or only some of it?  How do you know?

8. What do you think about Nick’s description of New York City (“white heaps and sugar lumps all built with a wish out of non‐olfactory money”)?

9. What does Jordan Baker reveal about Gatsby?

10. Discuss Daisy’s relationship with Gatsby, her subsequent engagement to Tom, and her marriage.

11. Discuss Nick’s statement that Gatsby “came alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor.”

12. What do you think of Gatsby’s request to Nick?

13. What do you make of Nick’s division of people into “the pursued, the pursuing, the busy, and the tired”?  Which characters in the novel fit into these various categories?

14. What are three words you read that you didn’t know what they meant. Look them up in context.

15. What would be a good title for this chapter?

*The Great Gatsby* – Discussion Questions Chapter 5

1. Think of a time when you dreamed of getting something (an object, an award, a job, even a boyfriend/girlfriend). How can the attainment of the goal be less satisfying than the pursuit of the goal? Is it worth it in the end?

2. Gatsby finally met with Daisy, yet was afraid to talk to her at first. Why? How would you act in that situation?

3. Speculate why Gatsby, now that he is with Daisy, is described as “running down like an over-wound clock” (93). What do you suppose this means?

4. Daisy cries into a pile of Gatsby’s shirts during a tour of his house. Why is she crying? What effect does seeing his house have on her? Discuss this shirt scene.

5. How would you describe Gatsby as he makes preparations for Daisy’s tea at Nick’s? Why does he act as he does?

6. Discuss the weather on the day of the tea. What do you suppose is the significance?

7. Discuss the green light—and why Nick says that it is no longer “enchanted”?

8. What are three words whose meanings you looked up as you read this chapter?

9. What would be a good title for this chapter?

10. Gatsby’s actions in preparing for Daisy’s arrival seem absurd. What does he do? Why?

11. Toward the end of the chapter, Nick attempts to explain “the expression of bewilderment that had come back into Gatsby’s face.” What explanation does Nick give? Why, in his opinion, is Daisy not at fault?

12. A large theme in this chapter is tolerance vs. complicity. Discuss why that is.

13. Describe Daisy’s reactions during the course of her meeting with Gatsby.

14. Discuss Gatsby’s actions once Daisy arrives. How do we know he is nervous? How does he try to impress her?

15. Has Nick been affected by the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy? In what way?