

APPENDICES

SUMMARY OF THE GREAT GATSBY

The story took place in the 1920s. The main character is James Gatz, later known as Jay Gatsby. He is a mysterious millionaire who lives in his Gothic mansion in West Egg.

He is a soldier and serves in the US army during war. When he meets Daisy Fay, they fall in love with each other, but because of Gatsby's poverty at that time, Daisy decides to marry Tom Buchanan, who at that time is a wealthy man.

Not knowing about Daisy's marriage, Gatsby gets involved in selling liquor that is banned by the government at that time. He gains wealth, and he comes back to gain back Daisy's love.

But what he discovers is that Daisy is already married to a brutal husband, Tom Buchanan, who is having an affair with Myrtle Wilson. And when he asks Daisy to choose between him and Tom, he is disappointed that Daisy chooses Tom instead of him.

Although he fails to gain Daisy back, he still loves Daisy as he used to. When he is wrongly accused of killing Myrtle Wilson, who is actually accidentally killed by Daisy, Gatsby does not tell the truth in order to protect Daisy. Gatsby has to pay for his action with his life.

SUMMARY OF RAGTIME

There are several main characters in the story: Mother, who comes from the upper class of the American society; Tateh, who is a Jewish immigrant from Latvia and Coalhouse Walker Jr., who is a black musician. Both Tateh and Coalhouse come from the lower class of the society.

Mother, who is the wife of Father, is a successful businessman in the city. She becomes independent and has to run the business during Father's journey to the Arctic, but Mother sees her independence as a disaster. With her running the business, Mother dreams of gaining equality with a man, in which she succeeds to gain, when she dares to take care of a black woman and her baby during racial discrimination against black people. She also dreams of becoming a member of the nobility. She succeeds in fulfilling the dream by marrying Tateh.

Tateh comes to America to fulfill his dream of gaining a better life for his family. But what he gets is disappointment. His wife, Mameh, becomes an object of pleasure for her boss in the factory. Finally Tateh gets the opportunity to fulfill his dream, when he manages to sell his silhouette books and later becomes a scriptwriter for a film industry. He becomes wealthy and fulfills his dream, but because of racial discrimination in America, Tateh also dreams of gaining equality with the white people. He succeeds in gaining equality by identifying himself as a baron and he marries Mother, a white woman.

Coalhouse Walker Jr., tries to fulfill his dream of gaining happiness through wealth. He succeeds in fulfilling it by working as a professional pianist. He thinks that he has fulfilled his dream; however, he is stopped by a group of white firemen when he is driving his car, and he is asked to pay toll. He refuses to

pay it and they smash his car, so he tries to get justice, but he fails because of racial discrimination against blacks. In the end, he succeeds in fulfilling his dream of gaining justice, but he has to pay for it with his own life and the life of Sarah, whom he wants to marry, he also loses his other dream of wealth.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY FITZGERALD

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on September 24, 1896, and named after his ancestor Francis Scott Key. Fitzgerald was raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. Though an intelligent child, he did poorly in school and was sent to a New Jersey boarding school in 1911. He managed to enroll at Princeton College in 1913. He never graduated because of academic troubles; he enlisted in the army in 1917, as World War I neared its end.

Many events from Fitzgerald's early life appear in his most famous novel, The Great Gatsby, published in 1925. Fitzgerald is similar to Jay Gatsby, a sensitive young man who idolizes wealth and luxury. He fell in love with a beautiful young woman that he met when he was in the army.

Fitzgerald was the most famous author of the 1920s in America. Written in 1925, The Great Gatsby was one of the greatest literary documents of this period, in which the American economy soared, bringing unprecedented levels of prosperity to the nation. Prohibition, the ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol mandated by the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1919), made millionaires out of bootleggers, and an underground culture of revelry sprang up. All values of the previous decade were changed; money, opulence, and exuberance became the order of the day.

BIOGRAPHY OF EDWARD LAWRENCE DOCTOROW

Edgar Lawrence Doctorow was born on January 6, 1931. He graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, and enrolled at Kenyon College, where he received his B.A. with honors in 1952; he then studied at Columbia University.

Controversial in content and original in style, Doctorow's work often involves serious philosophical probing and the placement of historical figures in unusual and unpredictable situations and settings. Doctorow wrote three novels before he wrote Ragtime. His first novel in 1960, Welcome to Hard Times, has the traditional form of a Western plot; he uses an allegory of good and evil. In his second novel, Big as Life (1966), Doctorow explores the genre of science fiction in a satire set in a future New York. In 1971, Doctorow finally established his position as a major American writer by publishing The Book of Daniel.

Like Doctorow's first three novels, Ragtime enjoyed a significant critical success, as evidenced by the fact that Doctorow received the first National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction in 1976 as well as the Arts and Letters Award for the novel he wrote in 1975.

In 1980, Doctorow published Loon Lake, in which he continued his explorations into American history. In 1984, Doctorow published his next novel, Lives of the Poets: Six Stories and a Novella. With World's Fair, which received the 1986 National Book Award, Doctorow embarked upon the form of a memoir for the first time. Doctorow published his next novel, Billy Bathgate, in 1989, which also approaches history from a literary point of view. His latest novel is The March, published in 2005. Now he is living in New York.