

CHAPTER 7 Section 6

1. (p122-123) Gatsby's foot beat a short, restless ... Biloxi went to New Haven. Gatsby draws attention back to himself, and Tom seizes that moment to pounce. Tom begins to question Gatsby about his attendance at Oxford. Gatsby equivocates: he says he 'went there', not that he is 'an Oxford man'--not the way Tom and Nick are 'Yale men.' Tom then suggests that Gatsby went there as much as the man Biloxi at Daisy's wedding, who, it has emerged, was unknown to Tom and Nick even though he claimed to be class president—an office that did not exist. In other words, Tom, arrogantly being intentionally insulting, roughly accuses Gatsby of lying about having been at Oxford.

2. p123 This tremendous detail...faith in him that I'd experienced before. Once again something Gatsby says persuades Nick to believe him and trust him. It seems that the war gave men without social privilege such as Gatsby access to a university the caliber and prestige of Oxford. Tom considers that social inferiors like Gatsby could not have been, and should not be, given access to places like Oxford or Yale.

3. 'What kind of a row ...Gatsby was content. Tom lost the previous round, so now he attacks Gatsby openly and directly. Nick articulates Gatsby's satisfaction that the struggle over Daisy has emerged out onto the surface.

4. p123-124 'He isn't causing a row ...he last barrier of civilization. Daisy is propelled to intervene. Her bored, supercilious manner has become replaced by an air of desperation. She wants confrontation to be avoided at all costs. Her language appears to be forced, as if this way of speaking is a pose, a veneer. Tom basically abusively dismisses Gatsby as beneath notice by labeling him 'Mr. Nobody from Nowhere' and as therefore having no right to win Daisy from him. Tom then proceeds into a vicious, but confused diatribe that shifts from defense of family into all sorts of prejudices, including racism, jumbling it all together into an incoherent and unlikely rave.

5. p124 Angry as I was, ...prig was so complete. Nick strives to make clear his independence from Tom and his views. He is not aligned with Tom though he has collaborated in keeping Tom's affair with Myrtle a secret from Daisy. Nick cannot believe how quickly Tom was able to move from being a person who is sexually exploitative, i.e. a libertine, to being someone who gets on a high horse and condemns sexual license, i.e. a prig. Nick seeks to convey that he is superior to Tom as far as intellect and morals are concerned.

6. 'I've got something to tell you...' ... can't we all go home?' Daisy's distress increases the tension. Significantly, she appears most reluctant for Gatsby to proclaim his love for her openly to Tom.

7. 'Your wife doesn't love you,' ...loved anyone except me!' Gatsby's now trumpets his obsession with Daisy to one and all those present. He has decided to bring his pursuit of Daisy to an immediate triumphant fruition. His absolute commitment and conviction elicit admiration from the reader. His ardent