

**CHAPTER 1**  
**CLOSE READING PASSAGE (p. 6)**

Her husband, among various physical accomplishments, had been one of the most powerful ends that ever played football at New Haven—a national figure in a way, one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anticlimax. His family were enormously wealthy—even in college his freedom with money was a matter for reproach—but now he'd left Chicago and come East in a fashion that rather took your breath away; for instance, he'd brought down a string of polo ponies from Lake Forest. It was hard to realize that a man in my own generation was wealthy enough to do that.

Why they came East I don't know. They had spent a year in France for no particular reason, and then drifted here and there unrestfully wherever people played polo and were rich together. This was a permanent move, said Daisy over the telephone, but I didn't believe it—I had no sight into Daisy's heart, but I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking, a little wistfully, for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game.

And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to East Egg to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all.

**Based on your analysis, what is the overall purpose of this passage? How does the author achieve this purpose? In the space below, brainstorm possible answers to this question:**

# **The Great Gatsby**

## CH. 1 ANALYSIS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Then wear the gold hat, if that will move her;  
If you can bounce high, bounce for her too,  
Till she cry "Lover, gold-hatted, high bouncing lover,  
I must have you!"*  
—Thomas Parke D'Invilliers

1. This is the **epigraph** to the novel. **What is an epigraph?**
2. Thomas Parke D'Invilliers is Fitzgerald's semi-autobiographical character from the novel *This Side of Paradise*. **How does this epigraph reflect an aspect of Fitzgerald's personal life?**
3. **What does this epigraph reveal about Fitzgerald's opinion of men and women and the manner in which they pursue one another?**
4. **Describe our narrator, Nick Carraway.** What do we know about him?
5. Reread the passage (pp.16-17) in which Daisy tells Nick about her daughter and says that she has "been everywhere and seen everything and done everything" (17). **What can we infer about Daisy at this point? When you read this passage, does her description of her life make you think of any contemporary figures?**
6. At the end of chapter 1 we get our first glimpse of Gatsby. **Describe what Nick sees.** The green light will continue to appear throughout the story. **List possible symbolic meanings for this light.**