

# MODERNISM

## The Great Gatsby RAFT

*RAFT is an exciting acronym that stands for:*

**R**...role – who are you?

**A**...audience – to whom are you writing?

**F**...format – what form will your writing assume?

**T**...topic – what are you writing about?

For this 1½ to 2 page writing assignment, typed in block letter format, your RAFT will be as follows:

**R:** Nick Carraway

**A:** Family back home in Chicago

**F:** Letter

**T:** Your experiences out East

Begin, of course, with a salutation followed by a **very brief** introduction (Hey family, how's it going? type of thing). The meat of your letter will consist of three detailed paragraphs in which you must use what you have learned throughout the first five chapters of *Gatsby*.

**Paragraph 1:** Describe in detail to your family what one of Gatsby's parties is like. What types of food, people, dancing, decorations, music, and etc. have you observed at his parties? Be as specific as possible, giving your family a clear idea of what one of his parties would be like according to how they are described in the novel.

**Paragraph 2:** Tell your family about Jay Gatsby. What is your new friend like at his parties? What do you like about being his neighbor? What rumors have you heard about Gatsby and how do those rumors contrast with your impression of him? Describe both Gatsby's personality as well as his physical appearance. Express any doubts you may have about Gatsby's character, thinking about the lunch you shared with Gatsby and Meyer Wolfsheimer.

**Paragraph 3:** Tell your family about one of the following characters: Tom Buchanan, Daisy Buchanan, or Jordan Baker. What is his or her personality like? What does he or she do for a living? Do you like him or her? Why or why not?

Conclude your letter – make sure it feels complete – and include an appropriate closing, signing your name (Nick) but also your real name (so you can get a grade).

Don't try to retell the story by making stuff up. There is plenty of detail and countless specific descriptions that will allow you to provide "your" family with a very complete description of West Egg and Gatsby. The idea here is to place yourself in Nick's shoes in order to see this world through his eyes. Try to connect the information you are given with the emotions Nick Carraway might be going through as he experiences this entirely new world.

Finally, maintain a believable tone; you should have a pretty good idea of Nick's tone simply by having read the first five chapters of *Gatsby*, told in Nick's voice.