

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

What does Gatsby's answer to 'You can't repeat the past' reveal about what he thinks desire can control?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Repeat the past
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VI
START	You can't repeat the past.
END	the incarnation was complete.
PASSAGE ID	sec-gatsby-02

THE MOVE

Read an impossible goal through a character's certainty

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Gatsby's insistence that the past can be repeated reveals a belief that sufficient desire and money can control time itself. His certainty is important because the goal is impossible before any practical details are considered.

MARK

Box the statement 'You can't repeat the past.' Circle Gatsby's immediate answer. Underline the plan or assumptions that show what he thinks can be restored exactly.

NOTICE

- What does Gatsby imagine can be recreated?

- What role does desire play in his sense of what is possible?
- Why is certainty about an impossible goal more revealing than simple nostalgia?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Gatsby's answer to 'You can't repeat the past' reveal about what he thinks desire can control? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Gatsby's answer to 'You can't repeat the past' reveal about what he thinks desire can control? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Gatsby's answer reveals a belief that desire, wealth, and will can control time by restoring not just a relationship but a specific past state exactly. His certainty is more revealing than whether the plan is practical.
EVIDENCE	Use 'of course you can,' his intention to recreate the past, and the narrator's explanation of the idealized moment he wants to recover.
WATCH FOR	Do not define the goal as simple nostalgia. Gatsby believes the past can be made present through force of desire.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What does Gatsby's answer to 'You can't repeat the past' reveal about what he thinks desire can control?

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END ANCHOR	the incarnation was complete.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Box the statement 'You can't repeat the past.' Circle Gatsby's immediate answer. Underline the plan or assumptions that show what he thinks can be restored exactly.
2. **NOTICE** - What does Gatsby imagine can be recreated? What role does desire play in his sense of what is possible? Why is certainty about an impossible goal more revealing than simple nostalgia?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Gatsby's answer to 'You can't repeat the past' reveal about what he thinks desire can control?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.