

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Why does Nick call Gatsby 'worth the whole damn bunch' after spending the novel criticizing him?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Nick's final compliment
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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 VIII
START	It was nine o'clock when we finished breakfast and went out on the porch.
END	Goodbye, I called. I enjoyed breakfast, Gatsby.
PASSAGE ID	sec-gatsby-03

THE MOVE

Judge a statement against the narrator's earlier reservations

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Nick has criticized Gatsby's illusions, dishonesty, and excess, yet finally ranks him above the people around him. The compliment matters because it is comparative, not a declaration that Gatsby is flawless.

MARK

Underline Nick's insult toward the 'crowd.' Circle the compliment to Gatsby. In the margin, note one reservation about Gatsby that the compliment does not erase.

NOTICE

- What is Nick praising in Gatsby at this moment?
- What criticisms remain true even after the compliment?
- Why does 'worth the whole damn bunch' work as a comparison rather than absolution?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Nick call Gatsby 'worth the whole damn bunch' after spending the novel criticizing him? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Nick call Gatsby 'worth the whole damn bunch' after spending the novel criticizing him? 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	Nick's compliment does not erase his criticism; it ranks Gatsby's capacity for hope or commitment above the carelessness of the surrounding social world. The statement is comparative, not absolution.
EVIDENCE	Use the compliment, Gatsby's reaction, and one earlier reservation about Gatsby that still remains true.
WATCH FOR	Do not argue Nick suddenly believes Gatsby is morally flawless. Explain what trait he is valuing in comparison with 'the whole bunch.'
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

The Great Gatsby

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Why does Nick call Gatsby 'worth the whole damn bunch' after spending the novel criticizing him?

START ANCHOR	It was nine o'clock when we finished breakfast and went out on the porch.
END ANCHOR	Goodbye, I called. I enjoyed breakfast, Gatsby.

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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 - Underline Nick's insult toward the 'crowd.' Circle the compliment to Gatsby. In the margin, note one reservation about Gatsby that the compliment does not erase.
2. NOTICE - What is Nick praising in Gatsby at this moment? What criticisms remain true even after the compliment? Why does 'worth the whole damn bunch' work as a comparison rather than absolution?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Nick call Gatsby 'worth the whole damn bunch' after spending the novel criticizing him?
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.