

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

How does the ending move from Gatsby's green light to a statement about 'we'?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Boats against the current
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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 IX
START	Gatsby believed in the green light
END	So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.
PASSAGE ID	sec-gatsby-04

THE MOVE

Turn one character's dream into a general claim about time

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The ending begins with Gatsby's private green light and expands into 'we,' boats, currents, future, and past. His particular dream becomes an image for a broader human struggle to move forward while being pulled backward.

MARK

Underline references specific to Gatsby. Circle the point where the pronoun changes to 'we.' Star the boat-and-current image and identify what each direction represents.

NOTICE

- What is uniquely Gatsby's in the opening of the ending?
- How does the shift to 'we' change the claim?
- Why is being 'borne back' different from simply choosing to remember the past?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the ending move from Gatsby's green light to a statement about 'we'? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does the ending move from Gatsby's green light to a statement about 'we'? 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	The ending shifts from Gatsby's private green light to 'we,' transforming one man's struggle with the past into a general human pattern: reaching toward the future while memory and time pull backward.
EVIDENCE	Use the pronoun shift, the receding future, and the boats-against-the-current image.
WATCH FOR	Do not keep the answer only about Gatsby. The question is about how the ending deliberately broadens its subject.
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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How does the ending move from Gatsby's green light to a statement about 'we'?

START ANCHOR	Gatsby believed in the green light
END ANCHOR	So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

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.

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 references specific to Gatsby. Circle the point where the pronoun changes to 'we.' Star the boat-and-current image and identify what each direction represents.
2. **NOTICE** - What is uniquely Gatsby's in the opening of the ending? How does the shift to 'we' change the claim? Why is being 'borne back' different from simply choosing to remember the past?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How does the ending move from Gatsby's green light to a statement about 'we'?
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.