



*The* GREAT  
GATSBY

*Emulation  
handbook*

F·SCOTT·FITZGERALD

## Technique 1

*Nick Carraway is our narrator, but he's not the center of the story— making him a peripheral narrator. He is charismatic and smart, but most importantly: non-judgmental. Carraway is the closest the reader can get to Gatsby without hearing the story told by the legend himself. Mystery and steady progression through the novel is promised with peripheral narration.*

*Carraway is extremely careful never to tell us things that he could not have known. If he was not present at a particular occasion, he gets the information from someone who was. I.e. from Jordan Baker, who tells him about Gatsby's courtship of Daisy in Louisville; or from Michaelis, who tells him about the death of Myrtle Wilson. Sometimes Nick summarizes what others tell him, and sometimes he uses their words. But he never tells us something he could never know. Furthermore, no one sees him as central enough to withhold anything from him.*

*Although the role of narrator is rightly filled, Carraway is still deeply flawed. He uses such words as: "I suppose", "I suspect", "I think", "possibly", "probably", "perhaps", "I've heard it said", "I have an idea that", "I always had the impression", "As though" and "as if." But the reader is able to trust Carraway just as the other characters do. He remains steadfast in his beliefs and tendencies-- something Gatsby does as well, but not so humbly.*

*He states in the first paragraph of the first chapter, "I'm inclined to reserve all judgements, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores."*

## *Technique 2*

*A first-person perspective grants more realism to The Great Gatsby's atmosphere. Furthermore, Self-insertion into Nick Carraway's mindset provides translation to the slang, mindset, and dilemmas*

*of 1922 New York. Using "I" and "me" enforces immediacy. Presumably, this is to make up for the disconnect peripheral narration can cause.*

*"...I have an idea that Gatsby himself didn't believe it would come, and perhaps he no longer cared. If that was true he must have felt that he had lost the old warm world, paid a high price for living too long with a single dream. He must have looked up at an unfamiliar sun through frightening leaves and shivered as he found what a grotesque thing a rose is and how raw the sunlight was upon sparsely created grass..."*

*Chapter 8*

*Nick Carraway's first-person viewpoint, allows the reader, on the one hand, to see how the narrative is being constructed and, on the other, to participate in Nick's sense of discovery as the separate strands of the narrative take on meaning.*

# Technique 3

## sentence-based

*"I spent my Saturday nights in New York, because those gleaming, dazzling parties of his were with me so vividly that I could still hear the music and the laughter, faint and incessant, from his garden, and the cars going up and down his drive"*

*Chapter 9*

*The book is composed of mostly loose sentences, conveying ideas with organized chaos. This sentence, like many others throughout, has an independent clause at the beginning followed by many add-ons to enhance its meaning. This way, the reader is easily guided through the text and to the ideas being conveyed.*

*Periodic sentences are an integral aspect of the novel because of their elegance. However, there are realizations by the end of the book that could've happened quickly had it not been served in*

*morsels throughout the sinuous layout of the book. Fitzgerald's words take time to build off one another and exercise the English language beautifully.*

## *Emulation short story*

*The first time I'd heard of the mansion was in 2009 when I was new to Philadelphia, yet exclusively familiar with it's old city district. One person knew of me and I knew one person-- his name was Jasper. He'd told me more than a few extravagant tales in the time I'd known him, yet there was one morning in specific when he told me of a place that has since engrained itself in my mind.*

*We sat at our usual cafe, the morning was cold, and I remember being asked if I'd ever noticed the "huge, overgrown" house on the corner of front and Lombard. I wasn't prepared for the specific nature of the inquiry, nor was I sure where he was going with it.*

*Met with my reaction, he was pleased to fill me in.*

*"Listen," Jasper leaned in with a concealed smile and light in his eyes, "there is this place I know you've walked by plenty of times and never known. An abandoned mansion, but I'm telling this to you in*

confidence.”

What he proceeded to share with me was the seed for that building's longevity.

An hour or two later, when the chill had subsided and the afternoon began, I had been fully knowledgeable of a grandiose, 1950's infrastructure that lay fully furnished with the corresponding era's luxuries. The building begged for attention, continuing its story from person to person until the right one come across it.

Because every day for the following months I would walk by each dawn and look at the unlocked doors. To my continued surprise, the items remained day in and day out. For a property to be steadfast in its existence, yet blatantly insecure, showed the outside world that the energy of the building was it's own, inherent security system.

This building became the subject of my admiration, as Jasper knew it would because the same happened with everyone else.

It's story would be told, and an imprint would be left, and it's things left alone, and it's legacy moved forward.

## Annotation 1

*Peripheral narration allows for an inanimate object to personify the role as the protagonist. It is an entity that can only exist through the oral stories others tell of it.*

## Annotation 2

*The first-person perspective highlights the intimacy of the subject, and carries the reader along via easy connection.*

## Annotation 3

*Slightly hard to include with a 300 word limit was lengthy, descriptive sentences. Nonetheless, they were incorporated into the story when possible in hopes of providing flow and emphasis*





*F. Scott Fitzgerald was an American Jazz age novelist and arguably one of the best authors of the 20th century.*

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