

The Great Gatsby Knowledge Organiser (Language and Literature)	Key themes				Key quotations
1. Nick Carraway reveals he is narrating a story of the previous summer. This begins with him arriving in New York. Invited to his cousin Daisy's for dinner, he finds out her husband is having an affair and meets Jordan Baker. Ends with Nick witnessing Gatsby alone on his dock.	Oppression and rebellion	Freedom and confinement	Bildungsroman	Society and Class	"I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." (Daisy – Chapter 1)
	Identity and memory	Gender roles	Power	Love	"I married him because I thought he was a gentleman . . . I thought he knew something about breeding, but he wasn't fit to lick my shoe." (Myrtle - Chapter 2)
	Marriage	The American Dream	Sexuality	Dreams and desires	
2. Nick travels, via the Valley of Ashes, to New York with Tom to attend a party hosted by Myrtle, his mistress, at an apartment he pays for. Tom breaks her nose when she taunts him about Daisy whilst Nick gets very drunk.	6. Rumours spread about Gatsby, and a reporter turns up at his house. Here, Nick decides to narrate Gatsby's past in Dakota, and how he gained and lost his fortune through meeting Dan Cody. Having not seen either G or D for weeks, Nick bumps into Tom at Gatsby's house. Tom is highly critical of Gatsby. Later, at another one of G's parties Tom reveals to D that G's wealth is made through bootlegging		Terminology		"He had one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it...It understood you just as far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself." (Nick – Chapter 3)
			Materialism: To consider objects, wealth and physical comfort more important than morals	Adultery: An affair in which one or both parties are married	"I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby's house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited — they went there." (Nick - Chapter 3)
3. As the summer progresses, Nick eventually gets an invite to one of his mysterious neighbour's parties. Here he meets Gatsby and Jordan. Gatsby speaks with Jordan alone and requests more of Nick's company. The chapter ends with Nick narrating details of his everyday life.	7. G fires all his staff now the parties have served their purpose. On the hottest day of the year, they all meet for a drink in New York. G can hardly believe that D's daughter is real. Tom's suspicions of an affair are confirmed and a confrontation ensues. G and D drive off together, and on the way home, Nick, Tom and Jordan learn that Myrtle has been stuck and killed. Back at the Buchanan house, Nick sees G in the bushes who tells him D hit Myrtle.		Transient: Lasting only for a short time	Patriarchal: Governed or ruled by men	"It takes two to make an accident." (Jordan - Chapter 3)
			Hedonism: Pursuit of pleasure	Elite: The best in a class of people	"So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen year old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end." (Nick – Chapter 6)
4. Gatsby invites Nick to lunch and introduces him to Meyer Wolfsheim. During this time, he learns lots about Gatsby's past, some of it true. Afterwards, he bumps into Jordan who tells him about Gatsby and Daisy's past and asks him to arrange a meeting.	8. Nick meets G at his house, who tells him of his idolization of D. Later, Nick learns from Michaelis, what happened at the garage after the death. Wilson finds Tom who hints that it was Gatsby. Wilson kills Gatsby who and himself. Nick rushes back but finds Gatsby dead and then imagines Gatsby's final thoughts.		Ambiguity: Being open to more than one interpretation	Moralism: Practice of making judgements about someone else's behaviour	"So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight." (Nick - Chapter 7)
			Sentimentality: Being governed by feeling rather than thought	Hypocrisy: Claiming to have higher standards of behaviour than you actually do	"They were careless people, Tom and Daisy — they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money of their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made." (Nick - Chapter 9)
5. Gatsby nervously talks to Nick, offering to pay to sort out the meeting. It rains on the day of the reunion, which is an awkward affair culminating in Gatsby throwing shirts as Daisy cries and them staring at the green light together.	9. Writing two years on, Nick narrates the details of G's funeral. Few came, although G's father did, and he tells Nick of G's boyhood. Nick meets Tom in NY who tells him it was him who told Wilson that it was Gatsby. All westerners, Nick muses that the east might have corrupted him and his friends. Sitting on the beach outside Gatsby's house, he imagines the East before it was settled.		Punctiliousness : Concerned about being precise and deliberate in abiding by rules	Dissatisfaction: Being unhappy with a situation, person or state of affairs	"Tom and Gatsby, Daisy and Jordan and I, were all Westerners, and perhaps we possessed some deficiency in common which made us subtly unadaptable to Eastern life." (Nick - Chapter 9)
			Ill-fated: Being destined for misfortune	Idolatry : Worshipping of something or someone	"Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther" (Nick – Chapter 9)