

# F. Scott Fitzgerald & *The Great Gatsby*



It was “the age of miracles, an age of art, an age of excess, an age of satire.” ~Fitzgerald

# The Great Gatsby

- “Most widely read, translated, admired, imitated and studied twentieth-century work of American fiction.”
- In 1942, 260 copies were published—revival of the novel in the ‘50’s. (Did not have the immediate success of *This Side of Paradise*.)
- The time: 1922, post WWI, Strong economy “The Boom,” Roaring 20’s, prohibition & speakeasies (100,000 in NY), organized crime, Jazz Age

- Major Themes

- the recklessness, cruelty, and exploitation by the rich

- the failure of the American Dream

- reality vs. illusion—reliable narrator?

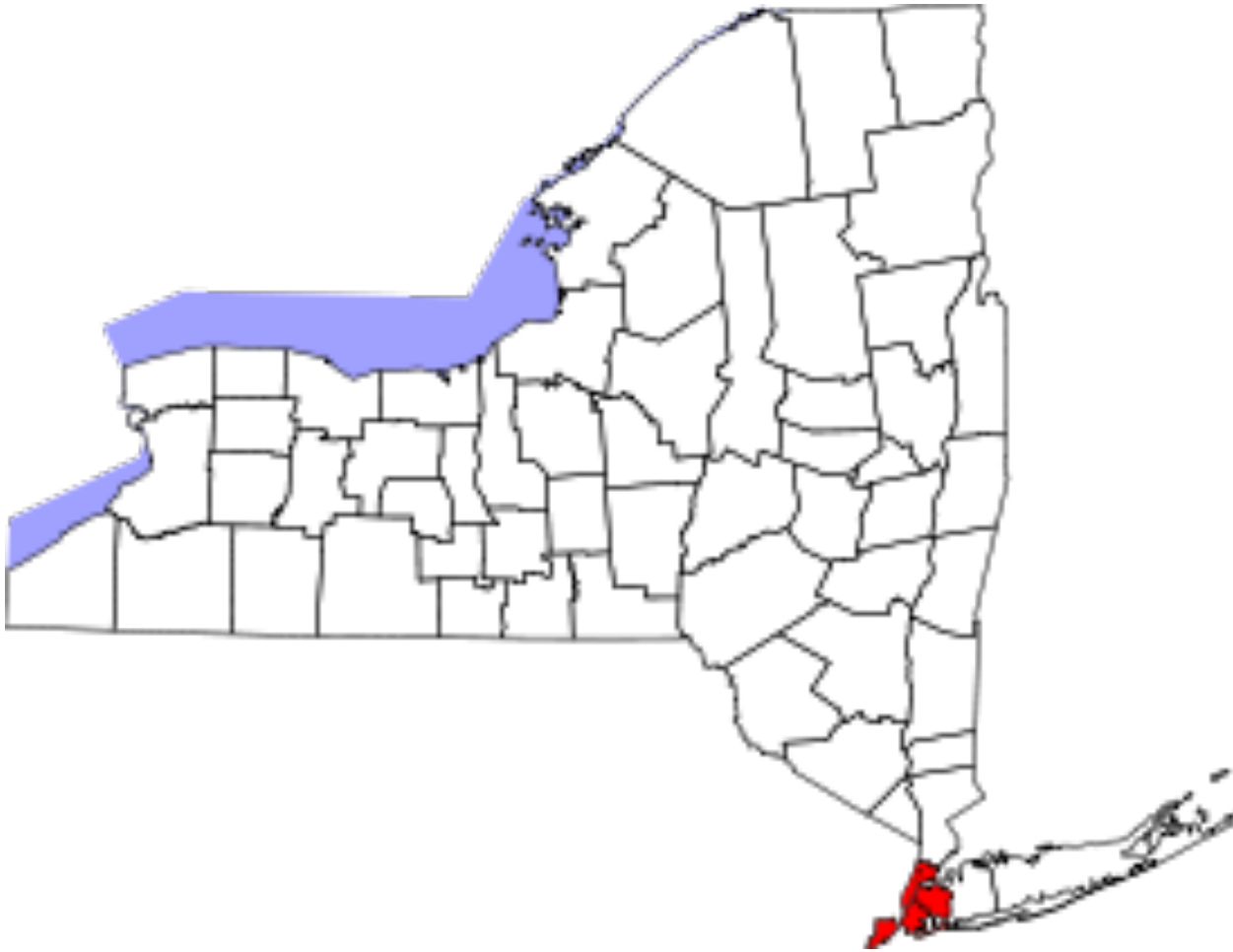
- Major Symbols

- the green light

- Dr. T.J. Eckleburg's billboard

- East Egg and West Egg—old \$ vs. new \$

# Setting: New York City



# Long Island: West Egg and East Egg



Can you name the five boroughs?

# The 5 Boroughs of New York

1. Manhattan
2. Brooklyn
3. Queens
4. Bronx
5. Staten Island



**Fitzgerald's "model" house on Long Island.**

Zelda



# The love story of Scott & Zelda

- They spent the early 1920's as literary celebrities in N.Y.
- Later in the '20s, they moved to Europe and socialized with Hemingway and other famous writers and artists.
- Their marriage was a tangle of jealousy, resentment, and acrimony.
- Zelda wrote magazine articles and short stories and at 27 became obsessed with a career as a ballerina.
- The tempestuous marriage, Scott's increasing alcoholism, and her mental instability presaged Zelda's admittance to a sanatorium (1930).
- Both wrote novels about their failing marriage: *Save Me the Waltz* and *Tender is the Night*.
- He had an affair while she was under care, and he died at 43 (1940).
- She died from a hospital fire (1948).