

## WHS Book Rationale

**Title:** *The Great Gatsby*

**Author:** Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

- **Intended Audience**
  - English 11 Honors / English 11
  
- **Brief summary and educational significance**
  - Set in the roaring '20's and narrated by Nick Caraway, the story revolves around mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby who seeks to impress rich, shallow Daisy Buchanan and in the process meets his own demise after coming just short of realizing the American Dream.
  - Fitzgerald is one of the most important writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and one of the literary voices of the Lost Generation, and the novel is an American classic.
  
- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**
  - Explore the lyricism and style of Fitzgerald and the Lost Generation. Symbolism, themes of the American Dream, narrator/point of view, tragic hero, setting, post-WW I disillusionment, decadence of the 20's, connections to other writers of the period.
  
- **Potential problems**
  - Bootlegging, adultery, murder, alcohol abuse, lack of moral direction, roles of women.
  
- **Addressing potential problems**
  - Opportunities for class discussion and investigation of life in the 1920's, consequences of actions.