

The Great Gatsby

Lindsay: We went to see “The Great Gatsby.” What was that? A couple of months ago. I guess. It **came out** this summer.

Georgia: Yes.

Lindsay: And um... So overall did you like it?

Georgia: I did. I read the book a couple of times when I was younger and I think F. Scott Fitzgerald is a fabulous author and I believe that the story is incredibly representative of the period of time in...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ...at least in the United States.

Lindsay: Yeah, it was about time that they made a movie out of that book right?

Georgia: Well, they have made three or four movies in the past...

Key Vocabulary Words

1. Critics
2. To come out
3. Cinematography
4. Scene
5. Vivid
6. Talented
7. To stand out
8. To portray
9. To capture
10. To keep up with the Joneses

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Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ...called "The Great Gatsby."

Lindsay: Oh, okay. They have a... Oh, right. Yeah. That is right, they have a...

Georgia: But different past versions.

Georgia: A newest uh...

Lindsay: So with Leonardo de Caprio. So the thing that really hit me was um... I thought the **cinematography** was gorgeous. Just the scenes and the colors that

were used I thought were... was...

Georgia: Certainly.

Lindsay: ...was beautiful.

Georgia: It certainly did um... express the vastness and the... the um... a kind of um... embellishment of... of ... of all of the... the furniture, the lighting...

Lindsay: Very ornate.

Georgia: Ornate and the, the plantings. Everything was um... overdone. I may not...

Lindsay: Totally overdone.

Georgia: Overdone because people were doing things...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ...in a way that was so ostentatious.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ...in that period of time.

Lindsay: And very **vivid**. Just the **scenes** were really vivid and very clear to me.

Georgia: The scenes *were* very clear and you could tell not just the scenery, but the uh... the photography of the people, their actual... their faces, their emotions...

Lindsay: Um... yeah. ..

Georgia: ...their expressions, um... their clothing, what they were wearing. Every little...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ... you know, they... they... they provided more information about what they communicate... what they were communicating.

Lindsay: Yeah. And of course Leonardo DiCaprio is a talented actor. I mean it was not his best right? They said that...They... I did a little research.

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They said that -- I mean most of the **critics** said that this movie was not his best, but he... he still was great in it.

Georgia: But he was the best one for it, the position.

Lindsay: Right, for sure. He is amazing. You know, he is super **talented** and um... I saw online... they were saying that Toby McGuire and Leonardo DiCaprio are... have kind of an off-screen friendship as well, so that made it work a little bit better.

Georgia: Oh. Right.

Lindsay: Yeah. And what did you think about the music? The way they intertwined, like hip-hop, current day music with music from the 20s?

Georgia: I did not really....

Lindsay: Yeah.

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Georgia: ...pay a lot of attention to that. Isn't that interesting?

Lindsay: So what ... Yeah, that is all right, I just thought kind of... Um... So that really is something that kind of **stood out** for me, but what stood out for you overall? Was it the idea of the 20s? Like what happened in the 20s and...

Georgia: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...the way they portrayed that?

Georgia: I definitely um... have been very interested in

history, in historical settings and all since...for a while and I believe that it did capture... more than any other film I have seen. Um... the ostentatiousness of... of the period, of people needing to show other people their wealth in a very...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: ...outward and um... you know. A way that....

Lindsay: **In your face way.**

Georgia: In your face way, exactly. And um... they... to be invited to his house for a party was a really huge deal.

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Lindsay: Yeah. It was a status thing. A status symbol if you know... if you go to “The Great Gatsby’s” place um... and uh, it is kind of like the ‘**Keeping up with the Joneses**’ idea that we had, you know, in the 90s and the 2000s here in the US right?

Georgia: That is right.

Lindsay: But that we’ve always had essentially.

Georgia: Well, I guess it depends on the people and the period of time too. Um... I do not think people right now care about ‘Keeping up with the Jones.’”

Lindsay: Not as much as they used to.

Georgia: They have to have the money to do it.

Lindsay: Yeah. Sure.

Georgia: So I think this kind of period happens after world wars a lot.

Lindsay: Um...

Georgia: ... Um, during the 20s, and after World War II, during the 50s.

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Lindsay: Yeah.

Georgia: People had a lot of money then and they had... they were going up a... a... one step, one notch in the... at least one notch in the social scale.

Lindsay: Hm.

Georgia: Um, they wanted to advance beyond where they were. Before, they wanted people to realize that they had more money than they had

before and they wanted their children to be accepted into the next social status.

Lindsay: Yeah, so it is interesting. Yeah.

Georgia: They were...

Lindsay: Fascinating.

Georgia: I mean... One perfect example was how they built these incredibly huge mansions in Newport, Rhode Island, for instance, and then also after... in the 70s here, after a recession and after the war, they built big, big, big, big homes...

Lindsay: Oh right.

Georgia: ...called McMansions.

Lindsay: Right, like I'm... I am imagining, for example, on "The Hamptons"...

Georgia: Yes.

Lindsay: ...you know in New York, right?

Georgia: And even in Connecticut where I lived

Lindsay: Even in Connecticut. Sure. Yeah, so if nothing else, "The Great Gatsby" was totally entertaining and um... very interesting.

Georgia: And it was definitely an historical uh... comment.

Lindsay: Yeah. For sure.

Georgia: Comment on the period.

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Lindsay: All right.