



The Great Gatsby in the Classroom: Searching for the American Dream (NCTE High School Literature Series)

David Dowling

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F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is one of high school's most often-assigned texts, and teachers have many resources to turn to when teaching this novel. Why, then, another book on the subject of teaching this classic? Because it's a book that focuses on the unique needs of high school teachers, providing classroom-tested activities that help students make meaning out of literature. It also addresses the challenges of adolescent literacy by drawing from both classic print texts and other media, including film, drawing, and drama.

Veteran high school English teacher David Dowling demonstrates how teachers can help students connect *The Great Gatsby* to the value systems of the twenty-first century, offering active reading and thinking strategies designed to enhance higher-level thinking and personal responses to fiction. He outlines specific teaching strategies for each chapter of *Gatsby*, as well as a variety of pre- and postreading projects and writing assignments. His multimodal approach to teaching effective reading strategies includes oral, written, drawing, and dramatic activities to better engage students in thematic and affective elements of the novel. Other features of the book include an analysis of a contemporary PBS documentary, *Affluenza*; excerpts and articles of literary criticism; student writing and drawing samples; a chapter on teaching the power of fiction, with a wealth of classroom activities for novels commonly taught in high schools.

All of this and more provides teachers with important knowledge about *Gatsby* that will enhance their own and students understanding of the novel and its enduring appeal.

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