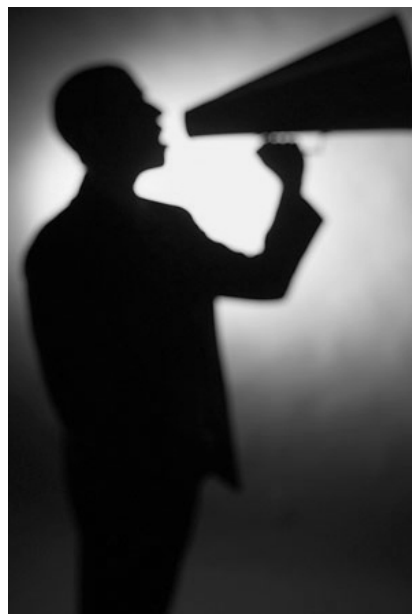


Narrative voice

Fitzgerald chooses a first person narrator to tell Gatsby's story; Nick Carraway is more complex than simply the first person narrator of the text: he is also an active participant in the events of the novel. This means that Carraway, in addition to being our eyes into the world of the text, is also someone that we have to interpret.

The reader is engaged in an interesting – but complex – game with Carraway: we rely on him to guide us through the narrative, but we also have to make judgements about the validity of his story against the agendas *he* clearly possesses.

Furthermore, the intense complexity of Gatsby is conveyed to us precisely because of the evident contradiction in the role of Carraway. On the one hand, the paradoxes of Carraway's narration are fascinating in understanding who he is as narrator *and* character but, on the other, they also problematise the complexities in our perceptions of Gatsby's character. Therefore, the choice of Carraway as narrator is important: it not only complicates our understanding of the novel and its world, but also our interpretation of Gatsby himself.



Nick Carraway's narration

→ In the table below, collect examples of Nick Carraway's contradictory narration, explain why they are contradictory and explain their effect on the reader.

EXAMPLE	WHY IS IT CONTRADICTORY?	EFFECT ON READER?