



AMERICAN LITERATURE

Instructor: Mrs. Nicole Kahn

Nicole Kahn has been teaching and serving as the English department chair at FJA for the past seven years. Mrs. Kahn grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and attended Fairleigh Dickinson University where she earned a combined B.A./M.A. in Counseling Psychology. After working in schools during her graduate school practicum, she realized that teaching was her true passion. She earned her M.S. Ed. at the University of Pennsylvania, while teaching in Philadelphia. She taught in Philadelphia for eight years before moving to Michigan with her husband, a native of West Bloomfield, whom she met on a Birthright trip to Israel.

THE GREAT GATSBY GRANDFRIENDS BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

In American Literature we are currently reading the critically acclaimed 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the fictional towns of East Egg and West Egg on Long Island in the summer of 1922, *The Great Gatsby* centers on the debauchery of the roaring twenties, exploring decadence, idealism, resistance to change, and social upheaval. *Gatsby* is considered one of the greatest American novels, and has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you read *The Great Gatsby* or seen any of the film adaptations? What were your impressions?
2. Daisy, the novel's central female character, suggests that the best thing a woman can be is "a beautiful little fool". What does this reflect about society in the 1920s? How is this (or is this not) different today?
3. In the novel a billboard with a giant pair of eyes is frequently referenced as watching over New York City. What might this represent? Why would the author choose to include this symbol?
4. What is your understanding of the American Dream? In your opinion, is this dream achievable in our current society? What obstacles might people face that would prevent them from achieving the dream?

