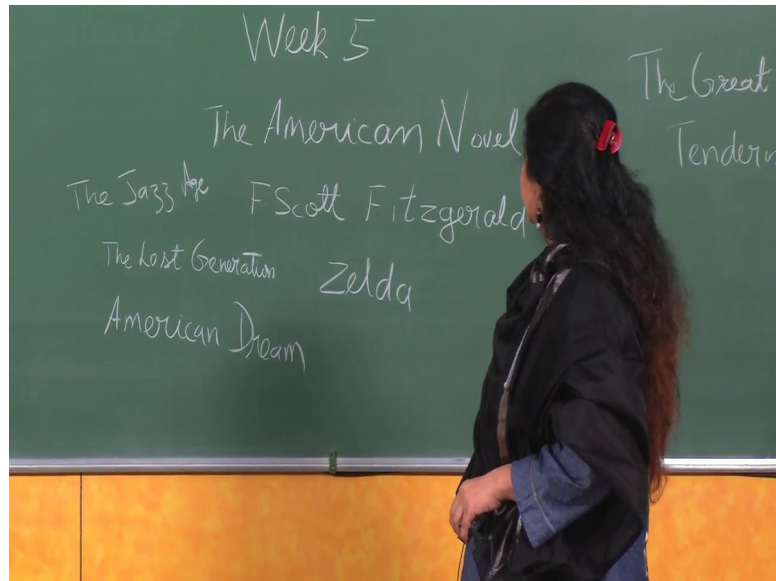


**Literature for Competitive Exam**  
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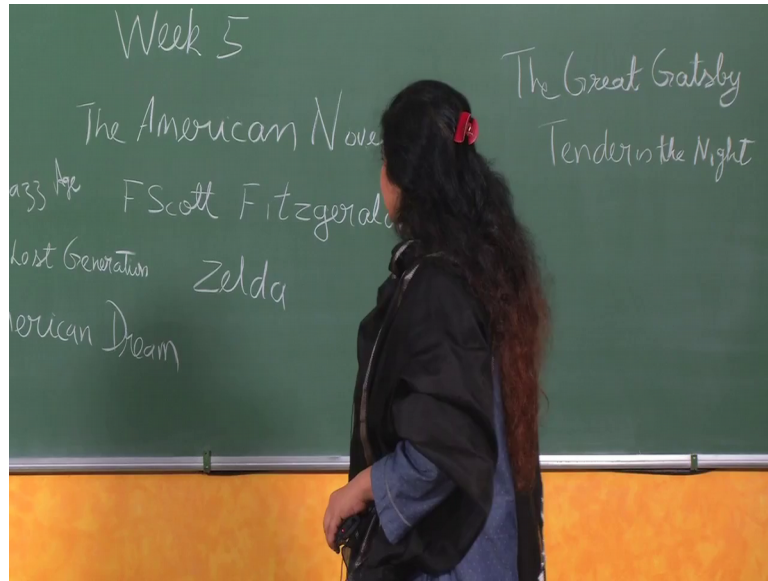
**Module – 05**  
**Lecture – 21**  
**The American Novel**

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Hello friends and we are continuing with our week 5, lecture on the American novel. So, this entire week has been devoted as you know to the development growth and the various landmarks in the American novel. We have already talked about a couple of novelists.

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And today I am going to talk about one of the greatest ever f Scott Fitzgerald, who is the author of the classic the great Gatsby about which I will be talking, but also I will be talking about his other accomplishments also he was married to another writer.

Although they not a much production or volume of or body of work that came out of Zelda, his wife Zelda Sayre. So, f Scott Fitzgerald and the jazz age the lost generation American dream, and why did I write Zelda so prominently here. Because of Zelda's important significance and her position in his life and also in his works particularly with reference to tender is the night. Now there is a famous exchange between f Scott Fitzgerald and Hemingway Ernest Hemingway who both of these both these men the great writers they had met in Paris.

Just after the first world war and they were called collectively I mean not collectively, but along with other writers group of writers, they were called the writers of the lost generation and Fitzgerald said the rich are different then you and me and Hemingway said yes they have more money yeah; although this was you know this was a kind of an encounter between Hemingway and literary critic Mary Colum. Hemingway said I am getting to know the rich and Colum said I think you will find the only difference between the rich and other people is that the rich have more money. Now Hemingway wrote a famous story called the rich boy it is a part of his collection and it was 1926.

And he says let me tell you about the very rich they are different from you and me, they possess and enjoy early and it does something to them makes them soft; where we are hard cynical where we are trustful in a way that unless you are born rich it is very difficult to understand. Now this is a famous quotation, it can be asked in several ways. So, whether it comes to you in the form of the exchange between Hemingway which has become a part of the legend or the folklore of Hemingway and Fitzgerald friendship or whether it comes to in the form of the exchange between Hemingway and Mary Colum, or the actual quotation the full quotation from the rich boy.

So, please be alert to that Hemingway 1896 to 1940 just 44 year old, and at age 44 he died of a heart attack. He was named after Francis Scott Key the author of the United States, national anthem the star spangled banner. So, that is the origin of his name and that is what he was that is who he was named after. He was born in Minnesota lived in New York most of the time and studied at Princeton University the celebrated university Princeton University from 1913 to 17. He also joined the army although quite briefly and after his discharge from the army in 1919.

He moved to New York city, he found literary success with this side of paradise it was published in 1920, he also wrote tales of the jazz age the what is jazz age that we are going to see soon. It was his second collection of short or short stories that contains one of his most famous short stories the diamond as big as the Ritz. He also wrote the beautiful and the damned in 1922, which was also adapted to their screen and many of his novels were adapted for that cinema.

He had an unsuccessful stint at Hollywood as screenwriter. Zelda Sayre and her importance. So, he married Zelda who was the daughter of a very wealthy Supreme Court judge and this marriage took place in 1920, from once Zelda came into his life he started living life the kings absolutely king size or queen size. In fact, Zelda and Francis Scott they were together called the prince and princesses of the New York society. Soon they settled at home in Westport which is in Connecticut and they continued the lifestyle of the rich and famous, and based on because it was a very tumultuous wild relationship.

Which I which had its which had great moments of ups and downs, and this all this is captured in Hemingway's novel tender is the night, which was published in 1934. Zelda felt bad that Nicole diver the character in tender is the night was modeled after her, and it

is not perhaps not a very flattering portrait. In 1927; Fitzgerald's rented the 27 bedroom mentioned it was called Ellerslie near Delaware. So, a famous mansion and a huge mansion fit for a king, still he had to work hard to live up to this princely lifestyle.

He was increasingly turning to alcohol and sometimes also becoming quite abusive. Zelda was a impulsive and she would often embarrass himself herself as well as Fitzgerald in front of friends and also his strangers. For a couple of years the couple traveled back and forth between New York and Baltimore, they also traveled to and stayed in Europe for months at a time sometimes with fellow Americans in Paris the Riviera Khans, Saint Raphael, Capri antabuse and Rome. So, what we call today the jet setting crowd and the jet setting couple in 1930, they were in North Africa and that is the year when Zelda had a nervous breakdown.

She was in and out of a clinics in and asylums and sanatorium in Switzerland and died in 1948. Hemingway's sorry Fitzgerald age is called the Roaring 20s, an age that symbolizes social artistic and cultural dynamism. We have to remember after the First World War the so called normalcy, it returned to politics and also redefine modern womanhood this we have been referring to quite often that the entire concept of general rules went through a lot of rethinking and shift after the First World War for obvious reasons. Men were away women had to join the workforce they started becoming more active in decision making. So, the idea of womanhood had to be naturally redefined. So, these were the this was the time when movements such as art deco surrealism and expressionism they were finding a fertile soil in Europe jazz music. So, therefore, we had movie the first ever talkie jazz singer in 1927 all these factors or all these cultural phenomenon went on to inform Hemingway's over. We also we must also remember the Wall Street crash of 1929.

Which sort of punctuated the end of the roaring twenties and the beginning of mark the beginning of the great depression; however, soon there was industrial growth and then consumer demands and expirations increased there were significant changes in lifestyle and culture. This is also the time of Harlem renaissance that is the post world war the population in Harlem or the upper Manhattan that was exclusively black, Harlem became the center of African American culture people like Langston Hughes countee Cullen w e b du bois and James Baldwin they Baldwin they are all the products of the Harlem renaissance.

And the jazz age what was it? An age of miracles that is what he calls in his work echoes of jazz age. It was an age of miracles it was an age of art, it was an age of access and it was an age of satire. So, this is something that you find everything all the time in Fitzgerald works, accesses art, art deco he is a modernist of course, but then he also borders to access and there is satire in his works and sometimes you know that he is laughing at his own type also. The lost generation is referred to the writers post the First World War.

Particularly the expatriates; we know that after the during the week of the war and during the war in the week of the war during the war there were a host of young men who were killed, and those who survived what happened to them. Perhaps they were wounded morally or physically Hemingway's the sun also rises and the character of the hero Jake Barnes he is the epitome of the so called the lost generation. So, this young generation was adrift morally spiritually sometimes even physically the mood was of cynicism.

And disenchantment. So, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Erich Maria, Remarque, T S Eliot Ezra Pound they were the writers of this age. Gertrude Stein she called them you are you all of you are you are a generation you are a lost generation that is what she remarked on this group of expatriates, who after the disillusionment of the first world war went to live in Europe for a long time especially in Paris this was Hemingway sorry Fitzgerald's age was also the age of the radical thirties, writers became radically political and concerned with social causes for example Faulkner William Faulkner. And Dos passos and Thomas Wolfe John Steinbeck who famously wrote the grapes of wrath Clifford Odets the great dramatist Eugene O'Neill.

So, this is also one important feature of the large generation and the radical thirties. Fitzgerald's books or works or stories are marked by the themes of love and success, transformation alcoholism and social excesses social mobility, but then he critiques also as in the great Gatsby which is his magnum opus 1925. He critiques here belief in the belief in American dream that anyone can be a success yes Gatsby does become a success, but at what price and does he I mean he Fitzgerald's also questions.

Whether there is a class system or not whether social hierarchies and boundaries can be completely erase which he feels that yes or that rather no they cannot be. The hero Jay Gatsby is a self made man, he loves to display flaunt his wealth. He tries to construct a

new past for himself. All this he does in order to win back his lady love daisy who he voluntarily gave up once upon a time because he felt that he was not rich enough or good enough and he pledged to himself that he one day he will come back and he will be so wealthy, that she will be attracted to his wealth and glamour and sophistication. He sort of tries to buy his way into daisy's society.

Daisy when he returns he finds daisy married to someone called tom Buchanan, someone who belong to the old rich New York family. Gatsby's idea of the American dream is anyway doomed from the start because he tries to buy his way into society that never accepts him. So, nouveau riche versus old money; interestingly Gatsby gets his idea of how to achieve the American a dream from the works of Benjamin Franklin poor Richard you know his autobiographic Benjamin franklins autobiography is called poor Richard; and the emphasis is on industriousness frugality and to encourage new sorts of experiences therefore, Meyer Wolfshiem in the great Gatsby at one time shows.

Nick Carraway the narrator of the great Gatsby and old book of Gatsby who is no more now which has a daily schedule at the back of it. And what does it say practice elocution poise and how to attain it read one improving book or magazine per week and be better to parents. So, these all these things that should come naturally to most people Gatsby learns from reading poor Richards Almanack and tries to follow it to that he naively believing that this is by following all the you know ticking all that to do list bullet points he is going to make it to the so called right society. He also felt that by planning out every minute of his day by being punctual by attaining wealth he could win the love of his life daisy.

The great Gatsby is also remarkable for its setting the west egg and the east egg these are fictional names; however, the great neck in the New York is in New York sorry is thinly disguised as west egg and this is a counterpoint to manor haven and sands point which was a inspiration for the more posh east egg. The next peninsula over on long island, great neck symbolized the decadence of the roaring twenties as it extended out from New York City into the dent remote suburbs. The western in contrast attracts the nouveau riche. So, gatsby. So, in a way see Fitzgerald's was himself fascinated by the life of the rich and famous he never made any bones about not wanting to join that elite club.

All his expensive holidays his wild parties and also the kind of mention that he and his wife rented and invited his friends to admire when what was that nothing, but an attempt to belong to an exclusive club. Likewise in the great Gatsby, the new money it tries desperately to situate itself into the that into that level of wealth that the people of the east egg were born into. At this point I want you to look at these beautiful lines from the great Gatsby please look at the slide here look at the quotation.

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## The Great Gatsby

- Her porch was bright with the bought luxury of star-shine; the wicker of the settee squeaked fashionably as she turned toward him and he kissed her curious and lovely mouth. She had caught a cold, and it made her voice huskier and more charming than ever, and Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes, and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor

Her porch was bright with the bought luxury of star shine; the wicker of the settee squeaked fashionably as she turned toward him and he kissed her curious and lovely mouth. She had caught a cold, and it made her voice huskier and more charming than ever, and Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes, and of daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor. This character of daisy you know scholars have pointed out that daisy symbolizes American dream, look at all the glittering words here star shine fashionably even this settee squeaked fashionably ok.

And then even if we she has caught cold her voice at least to the hero Gatsby sounded more charming, and the youth mystery that wealth preserves. These are the operating words freshness of many clothes not just a few clothes many clothes. So, that every time you wear something they look fresh and bright and shiny, and daisy gleaming like silver

safe and proud above the hottest struggles of the poor. The rich are always shiny and that is what he aspires to that is what Gatsby aspires to.

So, all his life he struggled to attain that ever elusive American dream and Daisy epitomizes everything that is bright shiny beautiful and American. In many of his short stories Fitzgerald's explore ideas and situations, which were later reworked in his longer fiction. So, description of settings which were devised in Fitzgerald's story "Winter Dreams" in 1922 became part of the detail of Daisy's home in *The Great Gatsby*. Similarly Fitzgerald's also used inspiration from Jacobs's "Ladder" which is his 1927 story, as character ideas for *Tender is the Night*. Now *Tender is the Night* is the 1933 book a novel noted for its power.

And brilliance and elegance, but then many found it objectionable for the way he derived from his own life you know own life and also Zelda's life his and Zelda's life together. The story is set I mean after the onset of the or following the onset of the great depression in 1929. Now this is a time when Americans were not really interested in celebrating lives of the glamorous and the rich, because *Tender is the Night* is all about the very wealthy Americans who live in Europe especially in French Riviera.

So, the book was criticized at the time of its publication, but today it is acknowledged as a classic. Even Hemingway who was a great supporter of Fitzgerald he criticized Fitzgerald for drawing his characters too much upon the templates of real people. Fitzgerald too acknowledged these problems along with some more serious problems and often wishing that he could have altered the chronology of the book or had been able to rewrite the final section. We will be talking or I will be showing passages from *Tender is the Night*, but before that I want you to look at this particular passage. This passage.



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### **Lit Device: compression of time**

Dick opened an office in Buffalo, but evidently without success. Nicole did not find what the trouble was, but she heard a few months later that he was in a little town named Batavia, N.Y., practising general medicine, and later that he was in Lockport, doing the same thing. By accident she heard more about his life there than anywhere: that he bicycled a lot, was much admired by the ladies, and always had a big stack of papers on his desk that were known to be an important treatise on some medical subject, almost in process of completion. He was considered to have fine manners and once made a good speech at a public health meeting on the subject of drugs; but he became entangled with a girl who worked in a grocery store, and he was also involved in a lawsuit about some medical question; so he left Lockport.

Particularly interested me while I was going through the novel for the benefit of this course, is because of the literary device and compression of time. Look at the number of things that happen in this one single paragraph and then you cannot help, but marvel at Fitzgerald's elegance of prose. So, look at the slide here, Dick is the hero Nicole is the heroin and Dick is sort of you know based on Fitzgerald himself Nicole is based on Zelda. Dick opened an office in Buffalo, but evidently without success Nicole did not find what the trouble was, but she heard a few months later that he was in a little town named Batavia.

Now practicing general medicine and later that he was in Lockport doing the same thing by accident she heard more about his life there than anywhere that he bicycled a lot was much admired by the ladies and always had a big stack of papers on his desk that were known to be an important treatise on some medical subject almost in process of completion he was considered to have fine manners and once made a good speech at a public health meeting on the subject of drugs, but he became entangled with a girl who worked in a grocery store and he was also involved in a lawsuit about some medical question. So, he left Lockport.

Look at the way it is written in just a matter of fact way not nothing sentimental now. The idea is that Dick and the background is that Dick and Nicole they have been divorced for quite a while they have been separated or divorced, they have gone their separate

ways and then what happened to Dick as his descent into ignominy begins from French Riviera being the toast of the town. Now he and once upon a time hailed as a brilliant doctor, now he has reached a point where he had to ultimately face a lawsuit about some medical question, and he has become like a rolling stone that gathers no also he has been going from here to there without any success much success personally or professionally.

But just a drifter, but without using the word drifter Fitzgerald gives us the portrait of a man, who is well past his greatness. Some of the works of Fitzgerald that you should know at least the title the diamond as big as the Ritz its a short story, tender is the night the great Gatsby the beautiful and damned, the last tycoon tales of the jazz age this side of paradise the crack up. The last tycoon was never completed; Hemingway wanted to call it the love of the last tycoon, his notes for the novel were edited by his friend Edmund Wilson and it was published in 1941 as the last tycoon, but then it was not completely written by Fitzgerald.

So, thank you very much and we will be talking about more American grades in our next class.