

The Cut-glass Bowl and Other Stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald

THE CUT-GLASS BOWL

- 1 It was a wedding present.
- 2 To say that their friendship was over.
- 3 Fred Gedney was still in the house. Evylyn pushed him into the dining-room so that Harold would not know he had visited her. Fred knocked against the cut-glass bowl in the dining-room. It made a ringing sound and Fred was discovered.
- 4 Clarence Ahearn was the owner of a new hardware business in the town. He was going to buy part of the business owned by Harold and his brother. He went to dinner to meet Mr Piper's family.
- 5 Because Julie, her daughter had cut her hand on the bowl and it had become terribly swollen.
- 6 Her hand was removed.
- 7 The letter was from the War Department. It said that the Pipers' son Donald was dead.
- 8 She felt that the bowl had taken control of her life.
- 9 She slipped and fell onto the bowl as she was trying to throw it down the steps.

BERNICE BOB HER HAIR

- 1 Marjorie Harvey.
- 2 She said she didn't love him.
- 3 He thought she was boring.
- 4 Her family was the richest family in Eau Claire. Her mother invited people to dinner with Bernice. She thought that the boys didn't cut in on her dances because they respected her.
- 5 She meant that none of the men was interested in her, and she wasn't having any fun. She did not know what to do to be a success.
- 6 (a) She said a girl should look as good as possible. (b) She said that if a girl looked perfect she could forget about her clothes and hair, and be charming. She said a girl should lean on a man when dancing, she should not dance too straight.
- 7 The unpopular boys who are quiet, shy and clumsy.
- 8 She was talking about bobbing her hair. She meant that it was something that would make the men notice her.
- 9 She wanted Bernice to have her hair bobbed so everyone could see the result. She knew that Bernice had no intention of bobbing her hair.
- 10 She was nervous about it, but she thought she had to do it.
- 11 *Student's own answer. Student could mention that they thought she looked ugly.*
- 12 Marjorie said that it did not matter much about Bernice's hair because she was going home the next day. She said that people in her town would not see Bernice again. And she twisted her own long hair into braids so that Bernice would be sad.
- 13 She cut off Marjorie's braids while Marjorie was asleep. She threw the braids onto the steps outside Warren McIntyre's house.
- 14 *Student's own answer. Student should mention that Bernice wanted to punish Marjorie for her selfishness. She wanted to make her look ugly so that Warren McIntyre would lose interest in her.*

GRETCHEN'S FORTY WINKS

- 1 That he was beginning the most important six weeks of his life. He needed to work really hard for six weeks.
- 2 She thought Roger had been working far too hard for six months. She thought he would have a nervous breakdown if he worked any harder.
- 3 He did exercises when he got up in the morning, then he took a cold bath or shower. He worked until four o'clock, then he went to his club to play golf or squash before dinner.
- 4 To take forty winks means to have a short sleep.
- 5 Roger was working so hard that he did not know what day it was.
- 6 She went out four times with George Tompkins, and she spent a lot of money.
- 7 H.G. Garrod was the owner of Garrod's Shoes.
- 8 They argued about whether work is the most important thing in the world. And Roger accused Tompkins of spending too much time with Gretchen.
- 9 Because she said that George Tompkins was the only friend she had and Roger has insulted him.
- 10 He put some white powder into a cup of coffee and gave it to Gretchen. When she was asleep he put all her shoes in a suitcase, cut the telephone wire and locked the bedroom door. He did it to have peace and quiet to work and to make sure she did not go out with George Tompkins.
- 11 He wanted to ask Roger to do all the advertising for Garrod's Shoes.
- 12 She had arranged to go out with George Tompkins on Thursday, but Roger told her that it was Friday. He showed her the newspaper to prove it.
- 13 (a) He said that George Tompkins had had a nervous breakdown. (b) He said that Gretchen needed a rest. (c) He said that Roger was very healthy.
- 14 *Student's own answer. Student might suggest that the winks were an ironical sign, meaning 'I won.'*

MAGNETISM

- 1 He was a movie-star. He lived in Hollywood, California, in the biggest house in his street.
- 2 She thought about having a love affair with him.
- 3 He had just been divorced. He wanted to go away from Hollywood, and especially from women.
- 4 Kay was jealous of a woman called Helen Avery who was also a movie-star. But George was not in love with her.
- 5 To sign some papers, agreeing to the changes in a script.
- 6 She felt sad and she began to cry.
- 7 He was a successful movie-director. He spent the evening sitting with Kay. When George was ready to leave, he saw Busch and Kay holding hands and gazing into each other's eyes. He was surprised to see this.
- 8 Margaret had tricked George into signing some love letters. Her brother had come to ask him for fifty thousand dollars in exchange for the letters.
- 9 She phoned him to tell him the morning after the party.
- 10 That it was finished. She was planning to go away with Arthur Busch.

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- 11 Margaret Donovan. He talked about the blackmail plan.
- 12 He discovered that Kay was not in love with Arthur Busch. He discovered that Margaret Donovan had shot herself.
- 13 Magnetism in this story means that a person is able to draw other people towards him, whether or not they want to be drawn. It is rather like the way a magnet attracts – or pulls – objects made of iron towards it. George does not understand his magnetism.

THREE HOURS BETWEEN PLANES

- 1 He found her father's phone number and phoned to ask for Nancy. He was given her married name, and he looked that up in the phone book.
- 2 When she was twelve years old.
- 3 That he was away on business, and that Nancy thought he had a woman in New York.
- 4 That she had died.
- 5 He had been jealous because someone else had kissed Nancy at a party when they were young.
- 6 That the person Nancy was really in love with when she was young was Donald Bowers, not Donald Plant.
- 7 He thought that for a few minutes he had lived in two worlds at once. And he thought that he had lost a dream, but that it didn't really matter.