

AP English 12

Dr. Van Gunten

Study Questions for

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*

BOOK 1

01. Through whose perspective do we see the action for much of Book 1? Why is this character the perfect choice?
02. What is your initial perception of Dick Diver? Which episodes best reveal his personality and character?
03. Who is Tommy Barban? What traits does he exhibit in Book 1?
04. How does Rosemary Hoyt begin to change? How does she remain the same?
05. What facts do we come to learn about Nicole Diver?
06. Are there any weaknesses in Dick Diver's character that are revealed by the end of Book 1? Which episodes reveal those weaknesses?
07. At the very end of Book 1, what sight does Rosemary see that Violet McKisco witnessed earlier? What is the Divers' dark secret?
08. In Chapters **xvii-xxv** (the last third of Book 1), what new information do we learn about Rosemary that suggests she is not as innocent (i.e., virginal) as she may seem? What role do Collis Clay and the refrain that seems to haunt Dick play in this regard?
09. Towards the end of Book I, we finally get a fuller treatment of Nicole and her personality. What are some clues about her nature which are revealed in these chapters? Who REALLY seems to wear the pants in the Diver marriage, and which incident shows that power relationship?
10. At the end of Book 1, the novel now features a murder (over essentially a misunderstanding, as you undoubtedly noticed). Dick acts quickly to "save" Rosemary, to "fix" things yet again. But is his act a moral one? Is Rosemary's "honor" really worth saving? How do you view Dick Diver now?

BOOK 2

11. What is the primary function of Chapters **i-x** in Book 2? What additional information do we learn about Dick Diver? about Nicole?
12. What role does Baby Warren play in Book 2?
13. How are the events in Chapters **xi-xxiii** related chronologically to those in Book 1?
14. What are the factors which seem to be responsible for Dick Diver's decline and fall? How is he in a sense "trapped"?
15. Why does Dick Diver start out on his own in Chapter **xvi**? Is it a search or an escape? What are its results?
16. How is the final part of Book 2 a series of leave-takings for Dick Diver? To whom / what does he say goodbye? What was he expecting to find on his journey? How would you assess the fortunes of Dick Diver by the end of Book 2, and why?

BOOK 3 and Beyond

17. Why does most of the novel take place in Europe? How does America function in the novel?
18. How does music function in the novel? Note, for example, how a particular lyric or title of a popular song is used to suggest information.
19. Are character names significant? Note these: Diver, Barban, Abe North, Mary North Minghetti, Baby Warren, Nicole, Rosemary, and the Iron Maiden.
20. Early in his career, Dick Diver realizes that "the price of his intactness was incompleteness." How is he portrayed in light of this phrase?
21. What seem to be the functions of the characters Collis Clay, Albert McKisco, and Senor Real?
22. How is the theme of incest--both its physical occurrence and its symbolic dimensions--treated in the novel?
23. How is Tommy Barban the "hero of the moral wasteland"? In other words, how is he like Tom Buchanan of *The Great Gatsby*?
24. Is Dick Diver, finally, a good man destroyed because of forces beyond his own control or because of the inherent weaknesses in his personality? Defend your choice.
25. How does F. Scott Fitzgerald utilize the plight of Dick Diver to illustrate a moral statement about America and the post-World War I world in *Tender is the Night*?