**Choose a novel in which an event is the turning point for the fate of the main character. Briefly describe the incident and explain its importance in terms of your understanding of the characters and central concerns.**

“The Great Gatsby” written by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a novel which has a particular event that results in the fate of the main character, Jay Gatsby. The novel begins with its narrator, Nick, on his way to visit some relatives, Tom and Daisy Buchanan. During this visit he is informed by Daisy’s friend Jordan Baker that Tom is an unfaithful husband as he has a mistress in the city, which Daisy is also aware of. This shows the theme of shallowness of the American upper class as Daisy’s friend openly shares a secret with a stranger. Jay Gatsby is Nick’s extremely wealthy neighbour in West Egg. He is part of the new generation of wealth as his family were not ‘well off’ and often flaunts his fortune by hosting extravagant parties. Tom and Daisy are part of the ‘old money’ category and live in East Egg with all the other wealthy families that have always been rich and superior. Gatsby strives to achieve his dream and win over the love of Daisy Buchanan as he knew her in the past, which makes him an admirable character to the reader as he does not give up hope. However, sometimes his hope can lead him to be naive and blinded by love as Daisy is not all as she seems. The turning point in the novel which sets the fate for Gatsby is in the Plaza Hotel in New York City when Tom highlights the Gatsby’s failure and that he will never be good enough for Daisy, which shatters his dreams.

At the beginning of chapter seven it is quickly established that there will be a high tension as the author uses pathetic fallacy to reflect the hot weather on the atmosphere between characters. As the characters arrive in the hotel suite the tension immediately emerges, which also reflects on the climax of Gatsby and Daisy’s relationship as it is clear that it will come to an end. This tension has been building up throughout the day which eventually comes to the surface when Tom is being confirmed that his wife is having an affair with someone from ‘old money’. In the aftermath of Tom having recognising the affair, he accuses Gatsby of not being an Oxford man in attempt to undermine him as he had previously claimed this was his background. “Mr Gatsby, I understand you’re an Oxford man… Then Tom’s voice incredulous and insulting: ‘you must have gone there about the time Biloxi went to New Haven”. Tom is trying to remind his wife that Gatsby does not come from an upper class upbringing and has lied about his education. This reveals the theme of the shallowness of the elite class as Tom is trying to belittle Gatsby. He then goes on to refer to Gatsby as “Mr Nobody from nowhere” which is another significant turning point as Gatsby comes to the realisation that he will never be good enough for Daisy. The illusion that Gatsby has built of Daisy starts to come crashing down as he does not come from a well-known title.

Tension continues to mount whilst Tom is quite openly insulting is opponent. Gatsby expects Daisy to confess her love for him and to admit to her husband that she doesn’t love him and never has. Tom starts reminiscing about their good times together whilst Gatsby continues to force Daisy to tell Tom she has never loved him. Daisy bursts in frustration “I did love him – but I loved you too”. This is a turning point for Gatsby as it shatters his fantasy of having Daisy to himself and he is forced to realise that it is impossible to repeat the past. From her statement, Tom realises that Daisy is not going to leave him so he continues further to accuse Gatsby of being a bootlegger and selling illegal products. As he is being accused of this, Gatsby quickly begins to panic as he is witnessing the effect this is having on Daisy as she is slowly drifting away from him. The narrator, Nick, states that he can now see a different side to Gatsby. “He looked…as if he had ‘killed a man’. For a moment the set of his face could be described in just that fantastic way”. This shows that Gatsby is afraid of being outed by Tom for being part of illegal operations. He had not actually killed a man but the character of Jay Gatsby that he made himself to be had come crashing down to his old poor self, James Gatz. Tom has broken this illusion by making Daisy aware of Gatsby’s true self- he has “shattered like glass against Tom’s had malice”. This links to the theme of the corruption of the American dream, as many people can become rich, but will never be respected by the upper class which shows the turning point which leads to Gatsby’s fate as he left the hotel suite with Daisy and were in a car accident on their return home. Daisy was driving and responsible for the death of Myrtle Wilson but her shallow soul allowed Gatsby to take the blame, leading him to be killed by the victim’s husband.

Before the two characters left New York, Gatsby was adamant to make Daisy stay with him and leave Tom but nothing he does or says will change her mind because she never really intended to leave her husband. It almost seems like she is unaware of why she is in the situation at all. “She was drawing further and further into herself” shows that as Gatsby was trying to prove his love for her, she was wandering further away from him and leaning more towards Tom. This is significant as Daisy is Gatsby’s idea of the American Dream and it is being torn away from him but she doesn’t tell him this and leaves him hopelessly in love. The reason her and Gatsby travelled home together was because Tom ‘allowed’ it as he had no doubt at all that Daisy would leave him for Mr Gatsby. “So we drove on toward death through the cooling night”. This is ironic as Nick is discussing Myrtle’s death as they have just come upon the accident, but this inevitably leads to Gatsby’s death too. This is the final turning point which leads to Gatsby’s death as he is blamed and then shot by Mr Wilson which ends in his tragic fate. The death of Gatsby was caused by Daisy Buchanan’s careless driving, but she never showed face to his funeral which shows her shallow nature.

In conclusion, “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a very powerful, tragic novel which has a certain event which leads to the fate of the main character Gatsby. His dreams come to an end as he is told he will never share a life with his one love, Daisy Buchanan. She does not feel as strongly about Gatsby as he does for her, shown by her artificial response to when they are reunited after any years, but she allows his hopeless acts of love continue which shows her shallow personality. In the hotel suite Gatsby is completely belittled by Daisy’s husband and she does nothing to stop this. This is the turning point of the novel which sends Gatsby to his tragic fate. This incident is important to the reader as it clearly highlights the shallowness of the American upper class society and shows the true colours of Tom and Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby loved Daisy, but she betrayed him which is his heart-breaking ending.