

Ch. 11 Section 3 ~ Society in the 1920's

- Decade nicknamed the “Roaring Twenties” because people felt a combination of **restlessness, desperation, boredom, and thrill-seeking.**
- Characterized by **wild music and loose morality.**



American Intellectuals

- After the war many young, smart, American thinkers felt like they **couldn't settle back into life at home.**
- “Free-thinkers” were discouraged.
- Many **gathered in Paris** and met at salons (informal gatherings of writers and artists where they discussed ideas)



“The Lost Generation”

- Called this because they were **cast adrift after the war.**
- **Life as they knew it was gone** and they were “lost” as they **searched for new beliefs** to replace their old ones that had been shattered by the war.
- **Life lacked meaning** to them and they felt that people were shallow and self-centered.



“Superiority” of America

- After the war America had more **wealth** and **political freedom** that Europe did not have.
- U.S. was not leveled by the war.



Still “Inferior”?

- **We did not have the art and culture of Europe.**
- We didn't compete with their artists and writers, however, many saw themselves as the cultural “equals” of the Europeans.



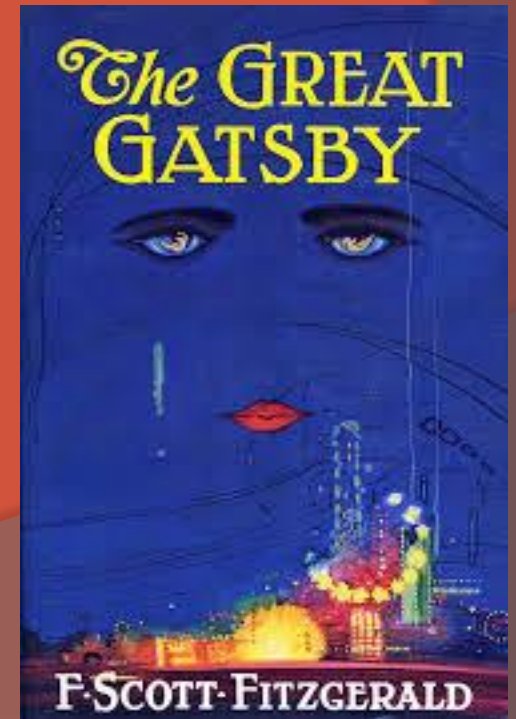
Literary Minds



- American writers living in Paris.
 - **F. Scott Fitzgerald.** (Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald)
 - **Ernest Hemingway.**
 - e. e. cummings.
 - Hart Crane.
 - Eugene O’neill. (Playwright)
- Many of these writers and thinkers flocked to Greenwich Village in NYC.

The Great Gatsby

- Novel by F. Scott **Fitzgerald** about the wealthy, sophisticated, Americans of the jazz age.
- Moral was that **money doesn't buy you happiness**
- Also wrote *This Side of Paradise*



Women

- **Began to emerge from being held down in the 1920's.**
- **Began to take part in the important debates of the day – wanted their voice to be heard.**



19th Amendment

- **Gave women the right to vote.**
- Huge step toward the “liberation” of American women.



Flappers

- A new type of woman.
- **Young, rebellious, fun-loving, and bold.**
- Trying to make a break with the past.



Flapper Image

- **Shorter dresses.**
- “Bobbed” or cut **short hair.**
- Began wearing **make-up.** (seen as a sign of immorality)



Women's behavior

- Before 1920's rarely **smoked or drank**, but now they did both. (1918 – 1928 cigarette production doubled in the U.S)



The “Devil’s Weed”

- Women smoking was frowned upon and police even began to enforce laws that banned smoking by women in restaurants, hotels, and other public places.
- “...young fellows go into restaurants to find women folk sucking cigarettes. What happens? The young fellows, vampired by these smoking women, desert their homes, their wives and children, rob their employers and even commit murder so that they can get money to lavish on these smoking women.”

