F. Scott Fitzgerald

A&E Video Viewing Guide

1. When F. Scott Fitzgerald was just a teenager, he realized that he had a talent for writing. He decided to use this talent to write plays, which he produced at his school. What was his main motivation for creating these plays?
2. Where did Fitzgerald attend college?
3. After Fitzgerald was kicked out of college for failing grades, what did he decide to do next? What ended up disappointing him about this venture?
4. What was the title of Fitzgerald’s first big commercially successful novel? Why was it so successful?
5. Name Fitzgerald’s friend/drinking buddy who became his literary rival.
6. Why did Fitzgerald lose his audience (and, consequently, the flow of money into his bank account) in the mid-to-late 1930s?
7. How did Fitzgerald’s wife die?
8. What lesson can we learn from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s life?
9. What experience left a deep impression on Scott? Why?
10. What helped Scott fit in?
11. What did Ginevra’s father tell Scott?
12. Why is Ginevra important in Fitzgerald’s writing?
13. Who was Zelda Sayre?
14. What did Scott consider to be one of the greatest regrets of his life?
15. What did Zelda do that devastated Scott? Why?
16. When did Zelda change her mind about her marriage with Scott?
17. Describe some of the emerging conflicts in the Fitzgeralds’ marriage. What was their solution to these issues?
18. What did Zelda do that “terribly upset” Scott?
19. With whom did Scott have a rivalry?
20. What happened to Zelda shortly after the Great Depression?
21. How much would Scott regularly drink a day? When did the “final blow” to Scott’s reputation happen?
22. Who was Sheila Graham?
23. What caused Scott to change significantly and fight with Sheila?
24. How did Scott die? How old was he?
25. How many people came to Scott’s funeral?
26. How did Zelda die?
27. When did readers and critics begin to appreciate Scott’s books?