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How to Figure Out College (When You're Family Can't Help You)

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How to Figure Out College (When You're Family Can't Help You)

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If you could have one
question answered today
about first generation
students,
what would it be?

On Figuring Out College

White, Middle/Upper Class Culture and Values

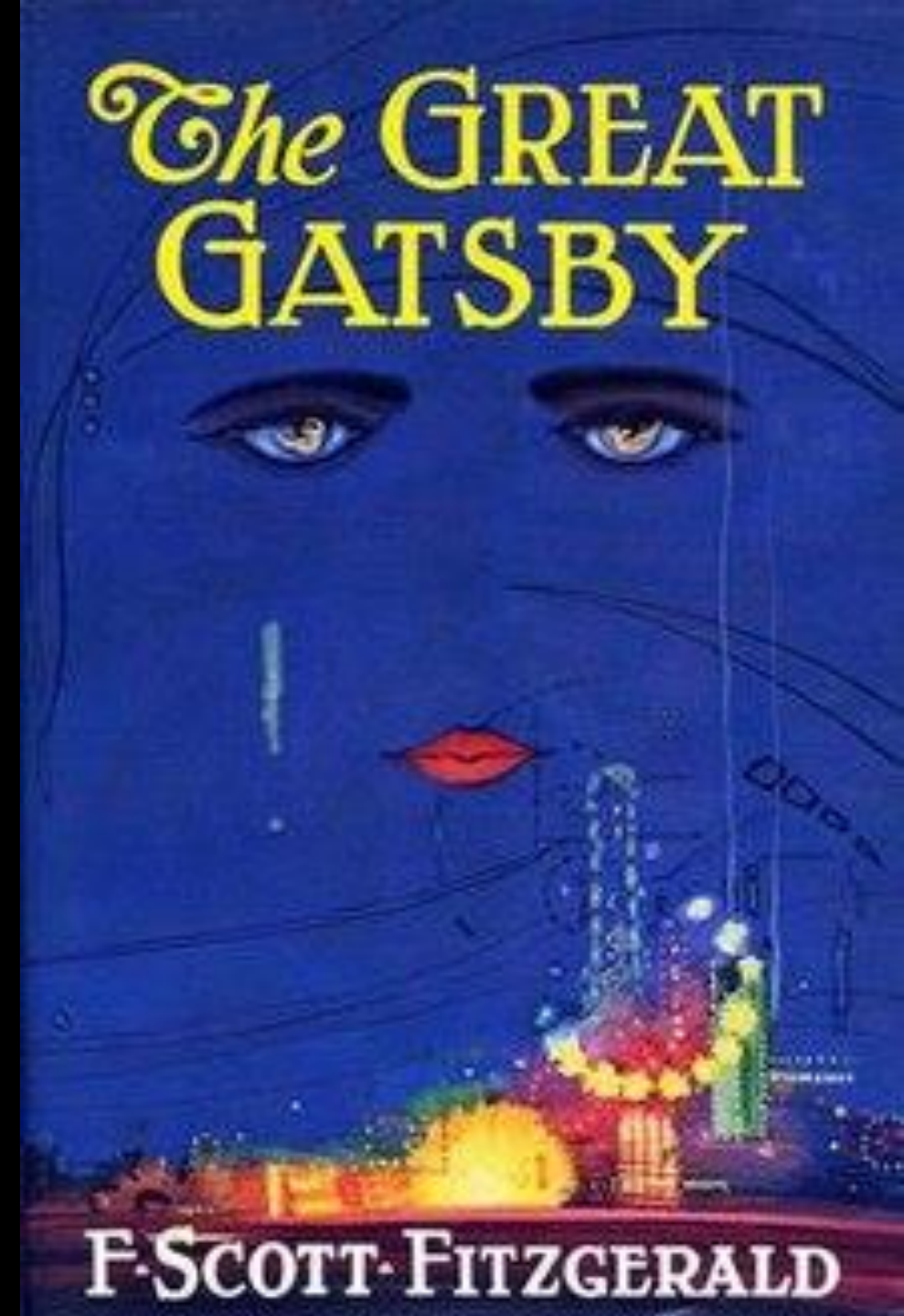
A specific way of living, that is valued and justified as the ultimate goal.



The accumulation of stuff is important and a sign of success.



Texts written by White people, usually men, are read as valuable contributions, often irreplaceable, to human thought.



I'm a first generation graduate,
not of college, of high school.

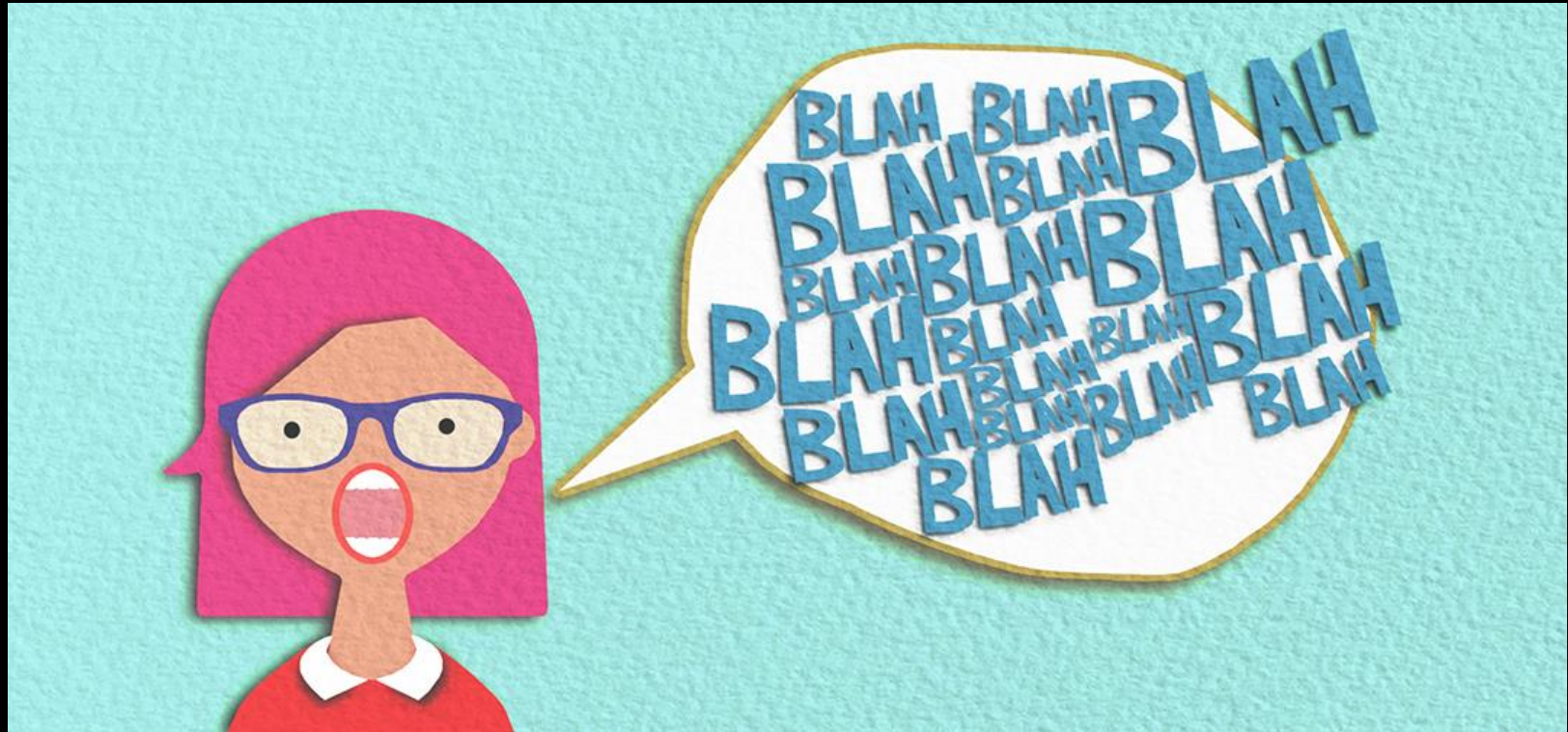


Being quiet in class
meant attentive
and respectful.

Being Quiet in Class



Talking too much was a sign of overconfidence and rude, and I was worried about mispronouncing words.



I should figure out
my work on my
own.

(Don't bother the
professor for too
much help.)



I shouldn't get help from other people, because they have their own problems to solve.



My parents could not monetarily support me in anyway.



Getting Some Distance...
and Rethinking the University

What kinds of values are portrayed
in your classes?

What books are you required to read in class?
Who wrote them?
(Which ones are you not reading, too?)

Who does the talking in your classes?

What cultures, languages, religions, genders, classes, ethnicities are represented in the stuff you read and talk about in class?

And most importantly what is being said
about “them?”

There are problems that faculty
and students can't solve...alone.

Average Tuition Growth Among National Universities, 2000-2020

