

## *Fitzgerald and Benjamin Button timeline*

### *F. Scott Fitzgerald*

#### **Nineteenth Century (1800s)**

1896: Fitzgerald born in St. Paul, Minnesota

1898-1908: After father's business fails, father works as a salesman for Procter and Gamble.

- family lives in Buffalo and Syracuse, New York
- mother's inheritance sustains the family

#### **Twentieth Century (1900s)**

### *Benjamin Button (fictional timeline)*

#### **Nineteenth Century (1800s)**

1860: Benjamin Button born in Baltimore (1, ch. I);

- apparent age: about 70 (7, ch. I)

#### *1861-1865: American Civil War*

1865: BB sent to kindergarten but is removed (19, ch. III)

- age: 5 (19, ch. III)

1878: BB becomes freshman at Yale but has to leave (ch IV)

- age: 18 (21, ch IV)
- apparent age: about 50 [52] (21, ch IV)

1880: BB works for father, meets and marries Hildegard Moncrief (ch. V; 32, ch. VII)

- age: 20 (25, ch. V)
- apparent age: about 50 (25, ch. V)

1881: BB's son Roscoe is born (34; ch. VII)

1895: BB's father retires after Benjamin doubles family fortune; BB's 35-year-old wife ceases to attract him (32, 34, ch. VII)

- age: [35]
- apparent age: [35]

#### *1898: Spanish-American War*

- BB enlists and is promoted to lieutenant-colonel (35, ch. VII)
- age: [38]
- apparent age: about 30 [32] (36, ch. VIII)

#### **Twentieth Century (1900s)**

1906-1909: BB masters popular dances, mistaken for his son Roscoe (38-39, ch. VIII)

- age: [46-49]
- apparent age: [24-21]
- Roscoe's age: [25-28]

- 1910: Roscoe takes over the business, BB goes to Harvard (39-40, ch. IX)
- age: 50 (40, ch. IX)
  - apparent age: about 20 (40, ch. IX)
- 1913-1918: Fitzgerald attends Princeton (briefly drops out and returns)
- 1914: BB graduates from Harvard and moves in with his son, Roscoe (41, ch. IX)
- age: [54]
  - apparent age: 16 (41, ch. IX)
- 1917: *United States enters World War I*
- Fitzgerald commissioned as second lieutenant
  - War ends (1918) shortly before he is expected to be sent overseas
- 1917: *United States enters World War I*
- BB commissioned as brigadier-general, but not allowed to serve as general (44-48, ch. X)
  - age: 57 (44, ch. X)
  - apparent age: 15 (43, ch. IX)
- 1918-1919: Fitzgerald falls in love with Zelda Sayre, but she will not marry him until he is financially secure
- 1920: *This Side of Paradise* published; Fitzgerald marries Zelda Sayre
- 1920: Roscoe's first child born (48, ch. XI)
- BB's age: [60]
  - BB's apparent age: 10 (48, ch. XI)
- 1921: Fitzgerald's only child, a daughter called Scottie (Frances Scott Fitzgerald), is born
- 1922: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" published
- 1924: Zelda has an affair with a French aviator
- 1925: *The Great Gatsby* published; Fitzgerald meets Ernest Hemingway
- 1925: BB goes to kindergarten with his grandson (49, ch. XI)
- age: [65]
  - apparent age: [5]
- 1930: Zelda has first nervous breakdown
- c. 1930: BB loses his memory
- age: [70]
  - apparent age: [newborn]
- 1934: *Tender Is the Night* published
- 1938: Fitzgerald tells his daughter that marrying her mother was a mistake
- 1940: Fitzgerald dies

## Works Consulted

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Scribner, 2007.

Martin, Robert A. "Fitzgerald, F. Scott." *American National Biography Online*. Oxford University, Feb. 2000. 18 Sept. 2013.