

Theme statement: Both love and money make the world go round - to be extremely important, so that many ordinary events could not happen without it.

Thesis: In Scott Fitzgerald's *Great Gatsby*, we uncover the correlation between love and money and how their importance influences the decisions of those in the novel. Those that share the belief that love and money do make the world go round are insincere people who conceal their true intentions and are both motivated and blinded by the idea of materialism in their relationships.

Point 1: Gatsby → driven to get rich in order to gain Daisy's love, attracted to Daisy's wealth

"She never loved you, do you hear? She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was a terrible mistake, but in her heart she never loved anyone except me!" (130).

- Reveals the story that he has been telling himself about Daisy - the thing that has bothered him.
- In his mind, he always had access to Daisy's heart.
- Low status and lack of wealth was his only impediment towards the life he dreamed of.
- Shows off his mansion just to prove to Daisy he's not poor anymore. Things have changed.
- His shirts act as a visual representation of how far he's come:
 - Shows off his wealth during the "accidental" date - took out piles of shirts and began throwing them, "Daisy bent her head into the shirts and began to cry" - drown in riches
- Daisy's voice is full of money - the root of what really attracts Gatsby so much to Daisy, her voice holds the promise of wealth - page 120

Point 2: Daisy → relationship with Tom continues because of his socio-economic status

"All the time something within her was crying for a decision. She wanted her life shaped now, immediately - and the decision must be made by some force - of love, of money, of unquestionable practicality - that was close at hand. That force took shape in the middle of spring with the arrival of Tom Buchanan." (151).

- Daisy longs for stability, financial security and routine.
- Despite their abusive and dysfunctional relationship, it's not clear whether Daisy is truly in love with Tom, but it's evident that she needs someone who can provide for the family.
 - The money that Tom provides gives her safety - she doesn't get caught for her crime.
- The only reason why she didn't consider having an affair with Gatsby at first was because of his social status.

Point 3: Myrtle → relationships motivated/based on Tom's socio-economic status

"I married him because I thought he was a gentleman. I thought he knew something about breeding, but he wasn't fit to lick my shoes" (35).

- Myrtle describes her decision to marry Wilson as a case of mistaken identity.
- 2 parts to the quote:
 - Wilson was a gentleman who knew something about breeding: she thought Wilson was a very wealthy man, would be important someday, and they would pass on these successful traits to their children.
 - Wasn't fit to lick my shoes: Comparing Wilson to dogs. Dogs often lick the shoes of their owners/masters. She's saying how Wilson is, in a sense, the lowest class of men, even lower than dogs.
- Didn't truly love Wilson, was only in love with his class,
- Found out later that he was only "borrowing an identity" - Wilson borrowed suit to get married in.
 - Tells us a lot about Myrtle and Tom's relationship.
- Quite desperate to get away from her poor and depressing life with Wilson at a gas station.
- Surrounds herself with Tom, a man who she thinks truly knows something about "breeding."
 - Tom can provide her with money and material, such as clothes, an apartment, and even a dog.
- Willing to put up with horrible treatment from Tom - punches her face - so that she can climb up higher in the social standing.

Final Thoughts: Money can buy safety, privilege, and marriage, but money can't buy "real" love

Extra Connection: Don't mix business and love - business = Gatsby's history of drug and alcohol and how he got his money, love = Daisy starts pulling away after finding out - **the importance of how you get your money** - page 134