**The Great Gatsby - Literary Analysis**  
[Student Name]  
AP Literature

**Introduction:**  
The use of color symbolism in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* serves as a crucial device for portraying the novel's central themes of aspiration, wealth, and the disillusionment of the American Dream. Through recurring imagery of colors such as green, white, and yellow, Fitzgerald imbues the narrative with deeper meaning, reflecting the characters' desires and societal critiques.

**Green Light:**

* Represents Gatsby's unattainable dream and his relentless pursuit of Daisy.
* Positioned across the bay at Daisy's dock, the green light symbolizes hope and the future Gatsby strives for but can never truly reach.
* As Nick observes, the light becomes "an orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us," underscoring the futility of Gatsby's aspirations.

**White Symbolism:**

* Associated with Daisy, white conveys an illusion of purity and innocence.
* However, it also represents the emptiness and superficiality of the upper class. Daisy's white dresses and the imagery of her childhood home highlight the deceptive nature of her charm and moral ambiguity.

**Yellow and Gold:**

* Signify wealth and materialism but also corruption and decay.
* Gatsby's yellow car and the opulent golden details of his mansion reflect his attempts to project success and allure Daisy.
* Yet, these symbols also foreshadow tragedy, as the car becomes a vehicle of death, mirroring the destructive nature of his pursuit.

**Conclusion:**  
Fitzgerald's masterful use of color symbolism weaves together the novel's themes, exposing the illusions of the American Dream and the moral decay beneath the glittering surface of wealth. Through colors like green, white, and yellow, the narrative transcends its characters, offering a timeless critique of human ambition and the cost of chasing an idealized vision of success.