

"Tragic figures are selfish men with fatal flaws."

In traditional tragic literature, significant figures are usually flawed characters who let themselves contribute to their own demise. The case is also very true with "The Great Gatsby," and "Richard II." Both ~~the~~ eponymous characters exhibit selfish tendencies that result in them demanding more than is necessary to them. Gatsby as a character is shown ~~throughout~~ the novel to demand Daisy's love despite her own reservations. Therefore, in his own regard, he pushes her to ultimately retract within herself. Whilst this excess can be also attributed towards his disillusionment between reality and fantasy, both aspects of his character lead him to take the blame for Myrtle's death. Richard, however, in the beginning acts has an extreme sense of entitlement and greed, which in combination proves to be his fatal flaw.

Jay Gatsby can be seen as a flawed character with selfish motives through his unrelenting pursuit of Daisy, a married woman. In the final paragraph of Chapter 1, Nick notes on Gatsby's fixation on "the green light," which is "minute and far away." The idea that the "green light," represents Daisy becomes apparent soon enough, however, the concept that Fitzgerald evokes is that of an idealism that is unattainable and beyond reach. The association of "green," being Gatsby's motivation also draws links to jealousy, in which his love for Daisy is driven by "fantastic" ambition, despite her being ~~the~~ married to Tom. The use of these metaphors in relation to Gatsby's love for Daisy also creates a parallel in which Gatsby's projections are perceived by Nick as being otherworldly and commendable for his "extraordinary gift for hope," which actually proves to be

his fatal flaw as he cannot let go of the idea of reliving the past. The climax of the story also depicts ~~how~~ Gatsby ^{coersing} ~~coersing~~ Daisy into confessing her love for him. His selfishness comes through clearly in his "competitive firmness," to assume Daisy's love for him ~~was~~ ^{as} absolute. However, the more he insists and demands ~~of~~ of Daisy, the more she becomes "terrified" of the outcome. When she professes that she only loved Gatsby "too," his eyes "opened and closed," as though depicting the endless struggle it is for him to maintain his perception of his dream. It can be said that the stubbornness in which Gatsby holds on to this dream of Daisy's love is his ultimate flaw as he disregards her own emotions of the matter until it is "too late," depicting that his status as a tragic figure was provoked by his actions and his ^{weak} ~~poor~~ character judgement.

On the reversal, Richard the Second is most evidently a character whose ~~on~~ flaw is his greed and selfishness. This is none more so apparent than in the early acts as the news of his uncle's, John of Gaunt's death, is met with glee and "opportunistic claim on his 'riches.'" When York delivers Richard with the ~~propaganda~~ ^{negative} fatal consequences of "wrongfully seizing," Gaunt's estate, Richard completely disregards York's claim that he will make himself vulnerable to "plucking a thousand dangers" and losing "a thousand well-disposed hearts." Shakespeare quantifies this claim to demonstrate the ~~enormous~~ great risk that Richard is committing. ~~The opposing narrative~~ He also ~~real~~ cleverly notes on Richard's being a "king but by fair sequence and succession." The alliteration emphasises Richard's ~~to~~ ~~provoke~~ status as king by the law of ~~the~~ primogeniture, which Richard undermines by "seizing," Bullingbrook's inheritance despite it being unlawful for him.

to do so. This fatal mistake that Richard commits therefore gives cause for Bullingbrook to come back to England to demand retribution. Thus, by following the ~~middle~~ his own desires and completely disregarding that of Bullingbrook's right, Richard sets up the consequences of bad fortune and demise. By enforcing his tyrannical pursuits in "these Irish wars," and scheming his "liberal largesse," Shakespeare makes sure to depict that Richard's ~~do~~ flawed decisions and selfish manner is the major contributor to his "usurpation."

Whilst Gatsby clearly illustrates his selfish pursuits within the novel, he also acts in both selfless and generous ways, which ^{serve} ~~not~~ to redeem him somewhat. The extravagant and meticulous way in which he hosts his parties depict his generous nature with his money. In Chapter 3, Nick narrates a ~~descriptive~~ description of Gatsby's party with key focus on the excessive nature of them. The "his raft," "his beach," and "his two motor-boats," illustrate the ~~means~~ lengths to which Gatsby is willing to go to entertain his guests. The possessive pronouns also depict the ease with which he is able to throw his money away, and even his "gorgeous," Roze Royce, the term-temporal phrases of "on weekends," "on Mondays," and "every Friday" are indicative of his unfailing attempts to be a reliable and spectacular host. The awe that is evoked from Nick throughout with vivid imagery of ~~pink~~ "salads with harlequin design," and "turkeys bewitched to a dark gold," provokes a sense of intense lavishness and grandeur which depicts the feast as a mythical meal of immense consideration and thought. Therefore it is clear that Gatsby is an immaculate host, it is perhaps his selfless act of protecting Daisy from Myrtle's death which is most redeeming. When Nick confronts Gatsby, ~~at~~ without reservation he admits that "of course I'll say I

was [driving]." The hyperbolic use of "of course," shows that in Gatsby's mind, there is no doubt that he will shield Daisy from the consequences of her actions. Thus, we see that his love for her was not entirely motivated by selfish desires, ~~but~~ however, it would be important to note that this decision he makes is fatal to him as he becomes a victim of Wilson's revenge.

The tragic figures within these two texts are both self-serving and flawed by nature. However, whilst Gatsby exhibits generosity in the beginning of the novel, this diminishes as his single-minded focus on Daisy's love causes him to act recklessly. On the other hand, Richard is clearly very greedy at the start and this leads to him making pivotal mistakes more ~~anonymous~~ fitting a villain than a tragic protagonist. Despite Richard's change in persona towards the latter stages of the play, it is clear to the reader that ~~unforgotten~~ his reliance on the "Divine Right of King" conveyed a false sense of protection which gave Richard the incentive to act above the law. ~~Both characters become overwhelmed by~~ Fitzgerald redeems his character by depicting his overwhelming ~~party~~ parties as well as showing Gatsby's sacrifice for his love which was insubstantial. On the other hand, Shakespeare makes clear from the onset that Richard II is a flawed king as well as a selfish man.