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Creative and Interesting Title - Clay Sullivan

***\*make more like an introduction\**** *The Great Gatsby* is a novel that examines the concepts of wealth, social status, and morality. It is important, therefore, to read *The Great Gatsby* with a 1920s mindset - the way people would have read the book when it was originally published in 1925. While some argue that the book is simply a portrait of society in the 1920s, Arthur Scott Fitzgerald is arguing that the 1920s were plagued by conflict between the two types of incredibly wealthy people: old money and new money. **Fitzgerald uses his book to explain to his audience that the humans are too concerned about pleasure, and that extravagant wealth, be it long established or newly found, is a dangerous object. Owl Eyes, who is almost blind, and therefore is not as vulnerable to the effect of wealth as someone like Daisy, is able to see through the veil that inhibits the morality of people like Gatsby and Tom Buchanan**. It is important to understand how the veil of wealth affected people in the 1920s, because although the divide between the super rich and the super poor is not as vast as it once was, a divide still exists. Therefore, many of the problems that arose from wealth in the 1920s still plague today’s modern society.

\*To many readers, *The Great Gatsby* is a very detailed and accurate snapshot of the mid-1920s. Fitzgerald uses his book to explain to his audience that the humans are too concerned about pleasure, and that extravagant wealth, be it long established or newly found, is a dangerous object. Owl Eyes, who is almost blind, and therefore is not as vulnerable to the effect of wealth as someone like Daisy, is able to see through the veil that inhibits the morality of people like Gatsby and Tom Buchanan. Despite his few appearances in the book, Owl Eyes’ significance is great enough to spark the idea that wealth is simply an object, and not something that defines a person. **\*talk about the scene from Gatsby’s library with the books\*** Owl Eyes, because he is not distracted by Gatsby’s visual facade of wealth and status, is able to perceive his inner and true self. **\*talk about the funeral and how nick and owl eyes were the only ones able to see past the facade \***

**\***Societal values, just like fashion trends or music styles, tend to fade and change as time progresses. With the advent of new technology in the 1920s, such as readily available and widely affordable automobiles, people were given the ability to move away from living in dense cities such as New York. In addition to automobiles and telephones, commercial electricity allowed economic efficiency to multiply as steam powered machines were replaced with their electric counterparts. Higher efficiency in this sector created a pathway through which more money flowed to the CEOs and others on the higher ends of big business. Some historians **\*find and cite\*** refer to the period leading up the 1920s as the **“second industrial revolution.”** In the book, there are many references to the idea of **“old money.”** Old money is family wealth that was generated during the mid-19th Century by CEOs of big businesses. It was not until the 1920s when the idea of “new money” began to arise. Many people became rich during the 1920s because they were bootleggers who illegally made, sold, or transported alcohol during the alcohol prohibition that started with the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1919

\*Wealth is something that creates a veil that filters out negative aspects of the world, leaving only the negative parts for observation.