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Summer Homework

English

The Great Gatsby DJ’s

**Theme:** In the novel The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald illustrates the theme that even though money can buy great things like mansions, expensive cars, servants, etc., it cannot buy happiness or true love in one’s life. He complicates this by showing us how wealth can change a person’s way of thinking and by making Gatsby think he can buy his love with his great wealth; Furthermore, he shows us how wealth has its moral disadvantages and can have more importance in someone’s life that love, but being poor is not the right choice either. So, we are left in the untrusted world of Gatsby’s.

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| **Literary Device** | **Quote** | **Explanation** |
| \*Antithesis | “Or, rather, I didn’t know Mr. Gatsby, it was a mansion, inhabited by a gentleman of that name. My own house was an eyesore…” (Fitzgerald, 5) | During Nick’s time on West Egg for house shopping, he describes his house and his neighbor’s. The narrator, Nick, describes to us 2 houses in two sentences, very different in size. This drives the theme that wealth cannot buy happiness in life and has its disadvantages. We see that Gatsby, who has a mansion, is very lonely and has no actual friends that genuinely care for him. On the other side, Nick, who does not show of his wealth has happiness in his life. Giving two statements that show opposite values shows the reader that we have two different sets of qualities that will lead to something greater. |
| \*Situational Irony | “…most of these fellas will cheat you every time. All they think of is money.” (Fitzgerald, 31) | When Myrtle was drunk at her “party” she told her sister that people would cheat on anyone for money. The author uses Myrtle and Tom for this situation, because they are both cheating on their spouse, for the money. This drives the theme that money can buy expensive things in life; so, people would do anything to get it, including cheating on their spouse. This proves that wealth comes with moral disadvantages; Myrtle cheats on her husband (which is morally wrong) with Tom, just for the money. |
| Visual Imagery | “It was gas blue with lavender beads. Two hundred and sixty-five dollars.” (Fitzgerald, 43) | When Jordan and Nick meet a pair of twins at the party, they start talking. Nick finds out that one of the twins had ripped her gown and Gatsby had sent her a brand-new gown which was very expensive. The author uses this to show the reader the wealth embedded within the gown and how it took over her moral values. She didn’t wear it to the next party, nor did she thank Gatsby for it; She was just amazed by the price. This drives the theme that wealth can buy fancy things (in this case the expensive gown), but once a person gets it, he loses his moral values and only cares about the wealth. |
| Symbol | “…string of pearls…” (Fitzgerald, 76) | Before Tom and Daisy’s wedding, Tom gives Daisy a string of pearls worth 350,000 dollars. The string of pearls is a symbol of wealth. At the same time, Daisy receives a letter from Gatsby telling her he is in Oxford and can’t wait to meet her. Given the two choices, Daisy cries, but soon decides to keep the pearls and marry Tom. She decides that wealth/money is more important than having true love in her life. This drives the theme that money can buy many expensive things, maybe even a girl, but no one’s true love can be bought with wealth/money. |
| Diction | “…glowed…” (Fitzgerald, 89) | After spending time with Daisy at Gatsby’s mansion, Daisy starts to “love” Gatsby again. The literal definition of *glow* is: to give out steady light without flame. The connotation of *glowed* used in this sentence was to show that Gatsby felt very happy, because he thought Daisy loved him back. Truly, she loved him for all his wealth, tricking Gatsby into thinking wealth can buy his love. This drives the theme that wealth can buy many things such as mansions, cars, etc., but it cannot buy someone’s true love. It is complicated by making Gatsby think he can buy his love with all his wealth, when in reality, he can’t. |
| \*Anecdote | “One autumn night, five years before… the incarnation was complete.” (Fitzgerald, 110-111) | After Gatsby complains that Daisy did not enjoy his party, he says he wants it to be like before. He has a flashback and tells him a story in which he doesn’t have much money and Daisy still loved him. This advances the theme that money and wealth that can buy many luxuries, but it cannot buy true love. In the past Gatsby didn’t use wealth to impress Daisy, he used himself. This shows how the introduction of wealth in a person’s life can change how they think, behave and how they interact with others. |
| Synecdoche and Metaphor | “Her voice is full of money…” (Fitzgerald, 120) | The *voice* is the part, which stands for the whole: Daisy. This helps the author show that Daisy is all for the money. Gatsby compares Daisy to money, thinking that she will truly love his for his wealth. This drives the theme that people will do anything for the wealth and in the process, forget their true love and other moral values; Gatsby thinks he can buy Daisy’s love with his wealth, and Daisy will do anything to go after the money. |
| Personification | “She wanted her life shaped now, immediately – and the decision must be made by some force – of love, of money … that was close at hand.” (Fitzgerald, 151) | When the author is telling us Gatsby’s past, we learn that Daisy wanted her life shaped right away, and money would aid in shaping it (personification). This shows that wealth/money was a big factor in deciding who Daisy was going to marry. Wealth did by the luxury of having a girl in Tom’s life, but it wasn’t true love. This drives the theme that wealth can buy many thing, to the extent of a girl. But it cannot buy the true love of a girl in one’s life. |
| Metonymy | “…they smashed up things and creatures and retreated back into their money, or their vast less carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together…” (Fitzgerald, 179) | After two years when Nick meets Tom while he is leaving, they have a conversation in which Tom says Gatsby got what he deserved. When Nick thinks about what it was that kept Tom and Daisy together. In the list he uses a conjunction meaning the list is limited and there are not many things that are keeping them together. But of the things there are, one of them is money. This drives the theme that wealth can buy many things, even cover up your mistakes. But it cannot buy someone’s true love; Daisy only stayed with Tom for the money. |