Olek

October 2, 2014

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1st Period English

*The Great Gatsby*

*Passage Analysis No 3*

In this passage, Gatsby is attracted to Daisy's wealth rather than Daisy herself. Gatsby is "breathless... betrayed", when he meets Daisy for the second time. He is attracted to her wealth, "breathless" at the sight of it. He is "betrayed" by her unwillingness to share in it. This makes Gatsby want wealth even more; he notices that Daisy "had caught a cold, and it made her voice huskier and more charming than ever". Daisy's voice is usually light and enchanting, and it is unthinkable to think of it as 'husky'. So when her voice is just that, it makes Daisy, her promise of wealth, seem even more unreal to Gatsby. But all that is right there in front of him: "Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprison and preserves... and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor". James Gatz came from a rural family of manufacturers, so the “hot struggles of the poor” are very familiar to him. Daisy, whose voice is usually warm and light, is “husky” because she has a cold, making her even more unbelievable and removed from reality. So when James Gatz sees Daisy, seemingly even more removed from his lot, right in front of him, above the “hot struggles of the poor”, he knows that his dream of wealth is now a reality.

When Gatsby first met Daisy, he was attracted to her for her wealth, but he knew it was an unattainable dream to be with this girl. All his life, James Gatz has wanted to be more than the sum of his parts, so he created Gatsby, an idea of someone who he wished he could be. Dan Cody helps reinforce Gatsby as a person, but after being taught the tools of the trade, Gatsby is still only a ghost. Then after he met Daisy, that all changed: "He has intended, probably, to take what he could and go— but now he found that he was committed to the following of a grail" (149). The grail is something mythical; something not everyone believes in but something that everyone wonders about. James Gatz sees in Daisy, the reality of his dream, of Jay Gatsby. Becoming Jay Gatsby is "the following of a grail", something mythical, not everyone believes in it, but there is an air of grandeur about it nonetheless. So when James Gatz sees Daisy, who has a cold, making her unfamiliar and mythical, "gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor", the hot struggles of the poor being something that James Gatz knows only too well, that's when he knows, he *can* be Jay Gatsby, the proof is right in front of him. All he needs is Daisy.