

# The Great Gatsby

## F. Scott Fitzgerald

Quotes	Technique	Effect
<p>“Whenever you feel like criticising anyone”, he told me, “just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had” - p. 3</p>	<p>Reflective tone</p>	<p>This quote which employs a reflective tone reveals a didactic message and gives us an insight into the perspective that forms Gatsby’s worldview.</p>
<p>“Gatsby turned out alright in the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men” p. 4</p>	<p>Imagery</p>	<p>The use of imagery alludes to the fact that Gatsby was surrounded by trouble and opposition in a literal and metaphorical sense.</p>
<p>“I lived at the West Egg, the - well, the less fashionable of the two” - p. 7</p>	<p>Blunt tone</p>	<p>The blunt tone highlights the clear social and economic distinction between the two eggs.</p>
<p>Daisy and Tom’s mansion, “There house was even more elaborate than I expected, a cheerful red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion overlooking the bay. The lawn started at the beach and ran towards the front door for a quarter of a mile, jumping over sundials” - p. 8</p>	<p>Setting, imagery, personification</p>	<p>The use of rich imagery evokes a grand and elaborate setting, whilst even personifying the grass as ‘jumping’ shows the lively, bold nature of their extravagant house.</p>
<p>Tom speaking, “The idea is if we don’t look out the white race will be... will be utterly submerged. It’s all scientific stuff; it’s been proved” - p. 15</p>	<p>Ellipsis, absolute language, confident tone</p>	<p>The use of absolute language, tone and ellipsis highlights Tom’s passion and reflective tone as he conveys his strong opinions regarding race.</p>
<p>“I hope she’ll be a fool - that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool” - p. 21</p>	<p>Absolute language</p>	<p>Daisy’s strong absolute language reveals her opinion that she wants her daughter to be a ‘fool’ for self protection, so as to ensure she won’t understand the cruel reality of the era, which place valued on beauty and appearance rather than intelligence</p>
<p>“But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T.J</p>	<p>Imagery, symbolism</p>	<p>The imagery of ‘Dr T.J Eckleburg’s eyes is a symbol of eyes looking down upon American society. Whilst the novel doesn’t explicitly state ‘who’ the eyes belong to,</p>

<p>Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T.J Eckleburg are blue and gigantic - their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face but instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a nonexistent nose” - p. 24</p>		<p>many have speculated that the eyes represent God staring down upon and judging American society as a moral wasteland.</p>
<p>“The valley of ashes is bounded by on one side by a small foul river... There is always a halt there of at least a minute, and it was because of this that I first met Tom Buchanan’s mistress” - p. 25</p>	<p>Absolute language, sensory imagery</p>	<p>This reveals the decrepit, poorer part of New York where Tom’s mistress lives.</p>
<p>Myrtle’s description: “She was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her flesh sensuously as some women can. Her face, above a spotted dress of dark blue crepe de Chine, contained no facet or gleam of beauty, but there was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually smouldering” - p. 26</p>	<p>Imagery</p>	<p>The use of imagery paints a clear image of who Myrtle looks like and her demeanour.</p>
<p>Gatsby states “If it wasn’t for the mist we could see your home now across the bay” - p. 92</p>	<p>Motif, symbolism</p>	<p>The use of motif is how Gatsby often ‘looks across the bay’ at Daisy’s house, which stands as a constant reminder of her and how deeply he loves her. The use of symbolism is evident in how they are also separated by water not only physically but also metaphorically, as Daisy is bound to Tom in marriage.</p>
<p>“One thing’s sure and nothing’s surer. The rich get richer and the poor get - children” - p. 95</p>	<p>Repetition, juxtaposition</p>	<p>This song lyric that is sung communicates the disparity and inequity between the rich and the poor in America and highlights the failing ‘American Dream’ as the careless rich succeed and the poor never quite seem to get ahead in life. This idea is seen when we consider the juxtaposition of power and wealth between Tom and Wilson.</p>
<p>“The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God - a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that” - p. 98</p>	<p>Metaphor and allusion</p>	<p>The metaphor that Gatsby is the ‘Son of God’ alludes to the 19th Century book by Ernest Renan ‘The Life of Jesus’ where the protagonist, Jesus is interpreted as a figure who makes himself the ‘Son of God’ and therefore brings himself to ruin by denying reality that his identity was ‘self-conceived’.</p>

		In the same way, Gatsby can be argued to have conceived a 'self-inflated' image of himself, like the protagonist in the tale of Ernest Renan.
Reference to Gatsby, "But his heart was in a constant, turbulent riot. The most grotesque and fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed" - p. 98	Metaphor	The metaphor refers to Gatsby's old self and how he used to spend his days considering his flourishing future in visions of wealth and thus his heart was never calm but rather a 'constant turbulent riot' as the desires of his heart were never satisfied.
Gatsby talking about Daisy at his party, "She didn't like it... She didn't like it" he insisted. "She didn't have a good time. He was silent and I guessed at his unutterable depression. "I feel far away from her... It's hard to make her understand" - p. 109	Repetition, sombre tone	The employment of repetition and sombre tone highlights how Gatsby's main focus is ultimately to win Daisy over and thus his elaborate parties are not for his own reputation but because he is devoted to her.
"The he [Gatsby] kissed her. At his lips' touch she blossomed for him like a flower and the incarnation was complete" - p. 111	Simile	The simile of 'like a flower' conveys the innocence and the sense of joy and beauty that their old love holds.
Gatsby speaking, "Can't repeat the past? Why, of course you can" - p. 116	Absolute language	The use of absolute language conveys how Gatsby is enveloped in the experiences and mindset of the past as he remembers Daisy and his past.
Talking about Daisy, "That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full [her voice] of money - that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals' song of it... High in a white palace the king's daughter, the golden girl..." - p. 119	Ellipsis, sensory imagery	The ellipsis and sensory imagery helps evoke the meaning that ultimately Daisy is drawn to and her identity is found in money. This is also a point of reflection for Gatsby as he recognises he must assimilate to the 'old money society' in order to prove himself worthy of Daisy.
"Over the ash heap the giant eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckberg kept their vigil, but I perceived after a moment, that other eyes were regarding us with peculiar intensity from less than twenty feet away" - p. 123	Motif	This is the recurring motif of 'God's eyes' watching over the characters actions as they live questionable lives with equally questionable morals.
"Myrtle Wilson was peering down at the car. So engrossed was she that she had no consciousness of being observed... Her expression was curiously familiar... her eyes, were wide	Imagery	The use of imagery conveys the sense of jealousy and also attachment that Myrtle feels towards Tom. It is clear that for Myrtle there love affair is not purely just 'for enjoyment' but also cherished by Myrtle. In

<p>with jealous terror, were fixed not on Tom but on Jordan Baker, whom she took to be his wife” - p. 124</p>		<p>contrast however, for Tom it is purely for his own enjoyment and this later reiterates his coldness and callousness that he exemplifies in life.</p>
<p>“Tom was feeling the hot whips of panic. His wife and his mistress, until an hour ago secure and inviolate, were slipping precipitately from his control” - p. 124</p>	<p>Sensory imagery</p>	<p>The sensory imagery evokes the panic and turmoil Tom was facing as his wife and mistress were on the verge of realisation that the other exists and have a <i>significant</i> connection to Tom.</p>
<p>Tom speaking in sheer frustration, “I suppose the latest thing is to sit back and let Mr Nobody from nowhere make love to your wife. Well, that’s the idea you can count me out... Nowadays people being by sneering at family life and family institutions, and next they’ll throw everything overboard and have intermarriage between black and white” -</p>	<p>Frustrated tone, historical allusion</p>	<p>The frustrated tone elucidates how annoyed Tom is at hearing the whispers of Daisy and Gatsby’s love for each other. Similarly, the reference to ‘intermarriage between black and white’ reveals the values of the era and references Jim Crow segregation laws that permeated early 20th Century America.</p>
<p>Gatsby speaking to Tom, “She never loved you, do you hear?” he cried. “She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was a terrible mistake but in her heart she never loved anyone except me!” - p. 131</p>	<p>Exclamatory, rhetorical question</p>	<p>The exclamatory and rhetorical question is implemented by Gatsby as a way to ultimately communicate to Tom that he has ‘won’ over him as Daisy and him share an ‘inseparable’ bond.</p>
<p>“They weren’t happy, and neither of them had touched the chicken or the ale - and yet they weren’t unhappy either. There as an unmistakable air of natural intimacy about the picture, and anybody would have said that they were conspiring together” - p. 145</p>	<p>Symbolising</p>	<p>Ultimately this reveals how Tom and Daisy are ‘cut from the same cloth’, meaning they both seek to attain and hold onto status and wealth and be aligned with the ‘old money’ image.</p>
<p>“After Gatsby’s death the east was haunted for me like that, distorted beyond my eyes’, power of correction” - p. 175</p>	<p>Negative connotation</p>	<p>The use of the word ‘haunted’ elucidates how Gatsby’s death had distorted the experience and feel of the ‘West and East’ eggs and continued to plague Nick Carraway’s mind.</p>
<p>“They were careless people Tom and Daisy - they smashed things up and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together and then let other people clean</p>	<p>Imagery, symbolism</p>	<p>The use of imagery symbolises how Tom and Daisy live with limited morals or regard and instead use their money as a sort of ‘band aid’ to address the real issues and consequences they have in their life.</p>

up the mess they had made..." - p. 178		
"Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It alluded us then, but that's no matter - tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther... and one fine morning... so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" - p. 181	Metaphor	The metaphor of the green light represents Nick returning to considering the significant thematic ideas of the human struggle to achieve their goals and transcend and recreate the past. However, Nick reflects that humans seem ever unable to move beyond the past as the current 'draws them backwards as they row forward toward the green light' and this was ultimately Gatsby's demise.