

The Great Gatsby—Medium

Archetypes are a part of everything movies, books, and even people's imagination. In *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald every character meets a certain archetype. Gatsby, a mysterious character with plenty of defining traits some of which can be conformed to archetypes. The three archetypes that fit him best are the self-made man, outcast, and scapegoat.

Gatsby was not always a rich man, nor did he have any of the finer things in life. He made a life for himself when he was old enough thus which makes him the archetype "self made man". When his past is finally coming to light Nick sees that life was not always easy, his parents were "shiftless and unsuccessful farm people" (Fitzgerald 98). Growing up he didn't have much, it made him resent his family. In his, Gatsby's imagination pictured himself as a rich man to where he "never really accepted them as his parents at all" (Fitzgerald 98). Gatsby knew he wanted a different lifestyle so he went to Meyer Wolfsheim who "got him to join up in the American Legion" (Fitzgerald 171). After Gatsby's death Nick is planning his funeral and is trying to get people to show up and he visits Meyer Wolfsheim. Mr. Wolfsheim starts telling Nick how he met Gatsby and when he gave Gatsby a job. Jay Gatsby left his hometown to better himself and did just that which makes him a self made man. When

Gatsby left his home he went to Meyer Wolfsheim to make his own money and live the life he wanted to live.

In the book everyone has all these assumptions about Gatsby that they have heard from people who claim to know him, but no one actually knows him which makes him fit the archetypal outcast. When Nick first shows up to West Egg he visits Tom, Daisy, and Miss Baker. This is when he first really heard about Gatsby. All summer Gatsby throw very extravagant parties that last all night and people come and drink all his liquor, but the one party Nick shows up to "he was one of the very few guests that had been invited" (Fitzgerald 41). Nick shows up to the party and starts looking for Mr. Gatsby. Instead of finding Mr. Gatsby he finds a group of girls. The group of girls tells him that "they thought he killed a man once...it's more that he was a German spy during the war" (Fitzgerald 44). The girls are going on and on about Gatsby and all the rumors they have heard about him. No one

knows him or what he even looks like. After Gatsby is killed Nick is planning his funeral and is trying to reach out to everyone and telling them that Gatsby is dead. The day of his funeral Nick and Gatsby's father waited for people to show up "the minister glanced several times at his watch... he asked him to wait half an hour.. It wasn't any use, nobody came" (Fitzgerald 174). When it is time to bury Gatsby nobody shows up. They came to the parties all their time but when it really counts no one comes for support.

Love is like a drug and for Gatsby that drug fuels him, kills him and leaves him to be the archetypal scapegoat. His love for Daisy leaves him blind and taken advantage of. He makes every move for Daisy and puts her before himself. His obsession with Daisy causes his death, he discovers things about her that does not make her very innocent and he does not care. He doesn't care because he believes that she loves him. When Daisy invites them all to lunch Nick and Gatsby have a conversation. Nick tells Gatsby that "she's got an indiscreet voice...it's full of...Her voice is full of money" (Fitzgerald 120). Everyone heads into town and Nick and Gatsby realizes that she is a gold digger. When he figures this out he pays no mind to it and dismisses it and just continues to hope that she will leave Tom. Tom decides to interrogate Gatsby which quickly spirals out of control. Everyone starts to head back, Tom, Nick, Jordan in one car while Daisy and Gatsby are in his car. On the way back to East egg Gatsby's car ran over Myrtle Wilson "her life violently extinguished" (Fitzgerald 137). Gatsby let Daisy drive his car and she accidentally, unintentionally runs over Tom's mistress. Gatsby decides to take the blame to make sure nothing happens to his beloved. Afterwards, George Wilson is seeks revenge for his wife's death. After the accident Tom goes to see George and finds out what happened he tells Mr. Wilson the person whom the yellow car belongs to. They reach East egg and Nick finds Gatsby sitting in bushes. He scolds Gatsby and quickly realizes that it was Daisy's fault. He warns him "you ought to go away" (Fitzgerald 148). Gatsby refuses and tells him he "couldn't possibly leave Daisy without knowing what she was going to do" (Fitzgerald 148). They decide to drop the conversation and hangout for the rest of the night until Nick has to go to work. While at work Nick calls Gatsby's house and his butler tells him that the phone line is to be kept clear, at the same time Wilson shows up at the house. Wilson walks into the gates and is looking for Gatsby. When he sees Gatsby

getting out of his pool he shot him and then shot himself. They couldn't find Wilson but after they started towards the house " the gardener saw Wilson's body a little way off in the grass" (Fitzgerald 162). After Gatsby dies they find the person who is responsible. Nick tries to get ahold of Daisy but can't seem to reach her. When their butler answers the phone call he tells Nick that they left. Nick then realizes that they left on purpose and used Gatsby. He loved Daisy and that love got him nowhere but dead and her husband believing that he killed Myrtle.

Gatsby fit many of these archetypal descriptions ,some more than others. While they led him to his upbringing they also led him to his downfall which in this case is his death. He brought himself up from being poor and made himself a really rich man. He threw these extravagant parties and yet people didn't really believe he existed. He was also in love with Daisy which turned into a dangerous obsession and that of which led him to be taken advantage of, murdered by a widow seeking revenge and taking the blame for the hit and run victim , Myrtle Wilson's death. Even though he was rich it shows that in reality he had no friends or people who actually loved him. He proved that you don't have to be born rich to have money. Lastly, he showed that love is a dangerous weapon and that it can cause some serious damage.

Rationale for score: Medium

Due to its lack of analysis and its overemphasis on summarizing details of the story, this essay received a 2 on the district rubric. In addition, the prompt asks to tie the archetypes into an overall theme, which the writer does not do. The student has an excellent grasp of blending textual evidence, but good structure of evidence cannot trump appropriate evidence and subsequent analysis of that evidence. Furthermore, the student shows poor control of grammar and conventions. While there is a thesis, it is very basic for this kind of prompt.

*Great Gatsby essay
11th grade 2nd semester*

Common Core All-Subject Writing Rubric

Writing Type(circle one): Argumentative Informative/Explanatory Narrative (ELA only)

CONTENT X4	The writing has a sharp focus and clarity of purpose. The ideas are developed with examples and specific details including textual evidence and are thoroughly elaborated. All elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a clear central idea and a clear focus. Ideas are developed with textual evidence, even though the development may be uneven. Information is relevant. Most elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a vague central idea; there are shifts in focus or digressions. Ideas are listed, information may be incomplete or irrelevant, textual evidence may be lacking, and there is little development. Some elements of the prompt are not addressed.	The writing has unclear or confusing ideas. The ideas are missing relevant information, there is not enough information, or there is little or no development, and little textual evidence. Significant elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	X4
ORGAN- IZATION	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with strong transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and there is a sense of completion about the writing.	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with simple transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and the writing may have a weak ending.	There is a weak beginning, middle, and end with gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in random order, there may be significant repetition, and the writing may have no ending.	There is no beginning or end with severe gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in a random or repetitive order. There may be too little information to demonstrate organization.	
SPELLING & GRAMMAR (Conventions)	The writing exhibits superior control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be a part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits proper control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be a part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits weak control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors minimally affect the meaning of the writing.	The writing exhibits little to no control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors greatly affect the meaning of the writing.	
Teacher Feedback:			{{Student Reflection on Back}}		Total Points Earned
					Score
					<i>2</i>