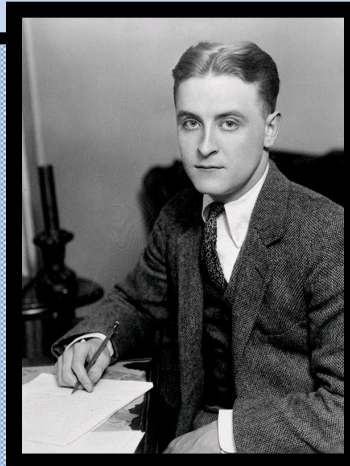


A Novel Study: *The Great Gatsby*
F. Scott Fitzgerald



F 415

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Agenda

November 8, 2012

1. Icebreaker Activity: Reader Response
 - * Gatsby- ‘Tragic Hero’ or “Vulgar Wheeler Dealer”?
2. Teacher Notes on:
 - Literary Technique: Elements of A Classic Novel
3. Small Group Discussion: Chapter 8 and Chapter 9
4. Video: 15 min. Clip – 1974: Great Gatsby
5. Wrap-Up Discussion w/Instructor (Final Thoughts)

Reader Response

Critical Response:

* Critics see two sides of Gatsby's character

According to Robert Ornstein: Gatsby is great because his dream, however naïve, gaudy, and unattainable is one of the grand illusions of the race which keep men from becoming too old or too wise or too cynical with regard to their human limitations.”

Reader Response

Other critics see Gatsby, “without Carraway’s intervening intelligence, as:

“ a boor, a roughneck, a fraud, and a criminal. His taste is considered vulgar, his behavior ostentatious, his love adolescent, his business dealings ruthless and dishonest. Grand as Gatsby’s dream is, according to these critics, it “does not lift him above the ordinary viciousness” that colors his behavior throughout the novel making his dream, in the end, seem ‘silly’ and ‘trivial’ “

Questions to Consider

Which portrait of Gatsby is accurate that of:

– a “vulgar wheeler dealer, whose behavior is ostentatious, whose love is adolescent and whose dream is ‘silly’;

Or

– a tragic victim/hero whose dream “however naïve, gaudy, and unattainable is one of the grand illusions of the race”, that can and should inspire the reader?

Literary Term: Elements of a Classic Novel:

A Classic Novel is inclusive of:

1. Exceptional Use of Language

- “Literary work expresses some artistic quality; literary work is also an expression of life, truth, and beauty.”

2. Gives the reader a picture of a time period

- Literary Work “considered to be a representation of the time period in which it was written.”

3. Contains Universal Theme

- Literary work integrates themes that are understood by readers from a wide range of backgrounds and levels of experience.”

4. Makes Connections to other literary works, authors,

- A classic “is informed by the history of ideas and literature whether unconsciously or specifically worked into the plot of the text (Lombardi “What are Classics”)

Topics for Wrap Up Discussion

Ending of the Novel

Readers often find that the ending of The Great Gatsby is: too abrupt; too simplistic; and too poetic in light of the violence that envelops the final chapters of the novel.

1. What is your response to the ending of the novel?
2. Were all of your questions answered?
3. If not what questions do you have that were not answered?
4. Why do you think Fitzgerald ended the novel as he did?