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

F 415
Instructor: Donna Macurdy
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1. Icebreaker Activity: General Response
   * A Word About Women (Tone/Mood)

2. Teacher Notes on:
   – Chapter 5 – Meeting Between Gatsby/Daisy
   – Literary Technique
     • Tone
     • Mood

3. Small Group Discussion: Chapters 2-4


5. Wrap-Up Discussion w/Instructor: Symbolism in Chapters 1-4
   Handout: Symbolism Exercise Sheet

6. Opt. Video: (8 min.) The Real Gatsby House (Sunday Morning)
An English professor wrote the words on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

“A woman without her man is nothing”

All of the males in the class wrote:
“A woman, without her man, is nothing.”

All of the females in the class wrote:
“A woman: without her, man is nothing.”

Punctuation is powerful!
Chapter 5

Embodies the conflict in the novel, developed through pairs of characters in chapters 1-4, with Gatsby’s reunion with Daisy i.e.,

- Tom & Daisy (Chapter 1)
- Tom & Myrtle (Chapter 2)
- Wilson & Myrtle (Chapter 2)
- Nick & Jordan (Chapter 3) (Gatsby’s Party)
To Look For: Chapter 5

1. Tone/Mood – meeting between Daisy/Gatsby
   What is the tone? What is the mood created by the author’s tone i.e., choice of language?

2. Ironic Incidents i.e.,
   - **Verbal Irony** – What is said is not meant
   - **Situational Irony** – When what is expected to happen doesn’t happen.
   - **Dramatic Irony** – When the reader knows something the characters don’t know.

3. Symbolism – Significance?
   Scene w/ Gatsby’s Shirts

4. Motif – Dreams
   * How does Gatsby’s dream change once he meets Daisy?
1. **Tone** – Writer’s attitude toward his or her subject, characters, or audience.

2. **Mood** - Feeling created in the reader by a literary work or passage. Elements that can influence mood in a work include setting, events and tone.

   - **Tone** is created by the words that the writer chooses; **mood** is the effect those words have on the reader.
   - “**Tone** is delivered in the form of syntax and usage, in imagery and symbolism, allusion and metaphor” (Nichol Daily Writing Tips)

**In Summary:**

“In literary terms the magic that writers, like Fitzgerald, create is called tone and mood.”
Character Description: **Tom Buchanon**

“He had changed since his New Haven years. Now he was a sturdy, straw-haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. Not even...his riding clothes could hide the enormous power of that body—he seemed to fill those glistening boots until he strained the top lacing...It was a body capable of enormous leverage—a cruel body.”
Nick’s first impression of Gatsby:

“He smiled understandingly…It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in a life.

It faced – or seemed to face – the whole external world for an instant, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor.

It understood you just as far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself, and assured you that it had precisely the impression of you that, at your best, you hoped to convey.”
“Precisely at that point it vanished – and I was looking at an elegant young roughneck; a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd.”
Topics for Wrap-Up Discussion w/ Instructor Chapters 2-4

Juxtaposition - Look for the Similarities and or Differences between:

- Characters esp. Wilson and Gatsby
- Setting esp. Valley of Ashes and West/East Egg
- Incidents esp. Tom & Myrtle’s Party; Gatsby’s Party

Which characters, events and or settings are placed side by side for purpose of contrast in Chapters 1-4?
A Link: CBS Sunday Morning

The Real Gatsby House (6 min. 50 sec. Video)

http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7363006n