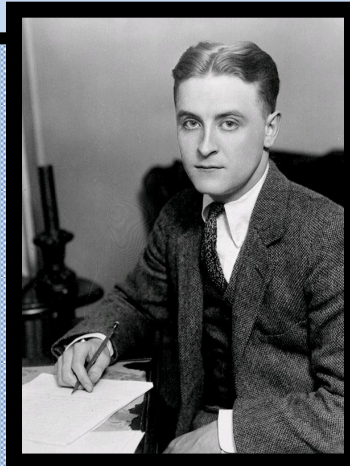


A Novel Study: *The Great Gatsby*
F. Scott Fitzgerald



F 415

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Agenda

October 25, 2012

1. Icebreaker Activity: Reader Response
 - Nick's Description of Gatsby's Transformation – Chapter 6
- * 2. Teacher Notes on:
 - Chapter 7 – Turning Point in the Novel
 - Literary Technique
 - Ellipsis
3. Small Group Discussion: Chapter 6
 - Focus: Gatsby's Real Identity
4. Video: 17 min. Clip – 1974: Great Gatsby
 - Lunch w/Wolfsheim
 - Daisy's Party at Gatsby's Mansion
5. Wrap-Up Discussion w/Instructor

Reader Response

In the opening pages of Chapter 6 Nick Carraway tells the reader, what he knows of Gatsby's transformation from the 17 year old James Gatz to Jay Gatsby.

According to Nick:

“ The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was the son of God -- a phrase which, if it means anything means just that---and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty. So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a 17 year old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end” (Page 98).

Reader Response ?'s

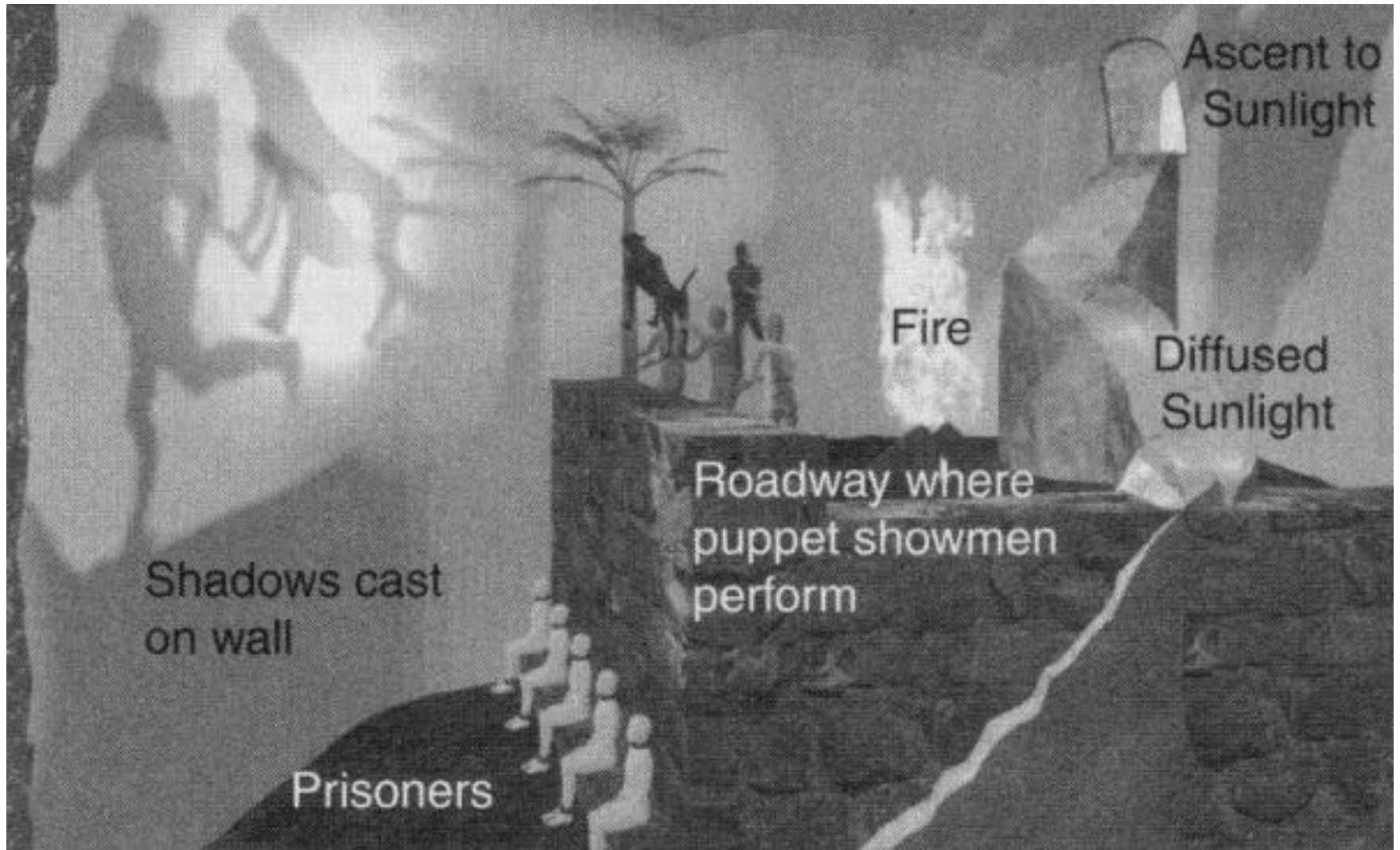
1. What does Fitzgerald mean when he alludes to Jay Gatsby's origin as "having sprung from a Platonic conception of himself"?
2. What truth/truths about Gatsby's transformation is Fitzgerald communicating to the reader?
3. Why does Nick offer these details up to the reader at this point in the novel?
4. Given that Nick's view of Gatsby's life, communicated to the reader early on, has been one for which Nick has had nothing but "unaffected scorn" how accurate is Nick's portrayal of Gatsby?

Reader Response

Nick Continues:

“ But his heart was in a constant, turbulent riot. The most grotesque and fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed at night...Each night he added to the pattern of his fancies until his drowsiness closed down upon some vivid scene...For a while these reveries provided an outlet for his imagination; they were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of his reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy’s wing.” (Page 99)

Plato's Allegory of the Cave



Notes on Chapter VII

Chapter VII: Climax/ Turning Point or Peak of Emotional Involvement when:

- Tom learns that Daisy loves Gatsby
- Daisy rejects Gatsby
- Myrtle is killed

*Myrtle's death is the tragic force that signals the start of the falling action, or the resolution of the conflict.

Note: Structurally the combination of the rising action (the two love affairs) (chapters I-IV); the climax (Myrtle's tragic death) (Chapter VII); and the falling action (Chapters VIII and IX) present a strikingly symmetrical plot.

To Look For Chapter VII

- Verbal Irony

Daisy's description of her daughter

“You dream you.”

Gatsby's description of Daisy's Voice

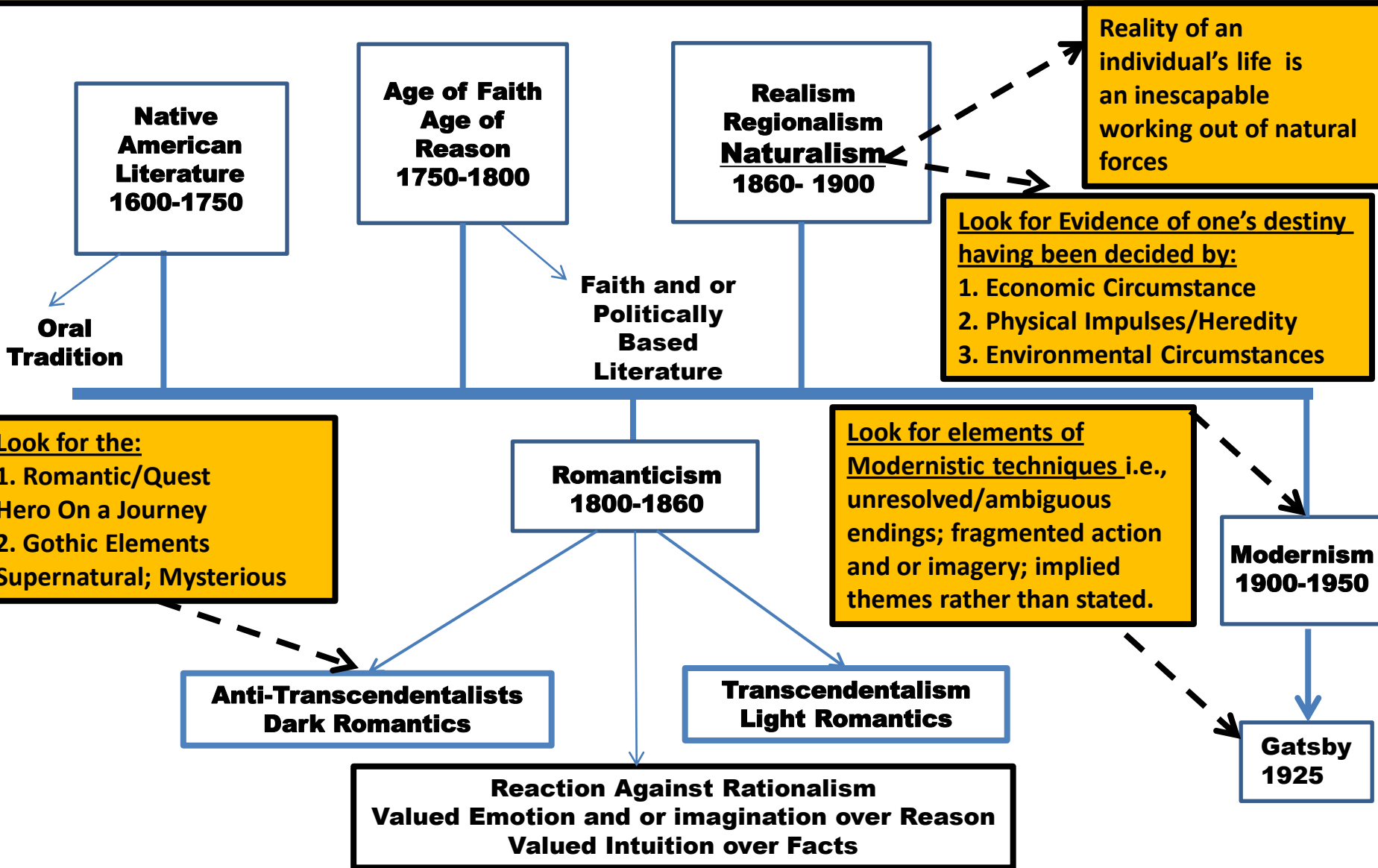
“It's full of Money”

Tom's remark that he:

“has the goods on Gatsby”

*Also look for situational/dramatic irony esp. as events play out ending in Myrtle's death.

Influences on Fitzgerald's Novel The Great Gatsby: Romanticism; Naturalism; and Modernism



Literary Term **ELLIPSIS**

Use of three dots...

- Narrative device of omitting a portion of the sequence of events, allowing the reader to fill in the narrative gaps.
- An ellipsis can be used to condense time, or as a stylistic method to allow the reader to fill in the missing portions of the narrative with their imagination.
- Ellipsis has its roots in the modernist works of Ernest Hemingway who has pioneered the Iceberg Theory, also known as the theory of omission

Example: Ellipsis...

- **Gatsby in Chapter IV talking with Nick:**
 - “ I am the son of some wealthy people in the Middle West --- all dead now” (Page 65)
- **Tom talking to Nick in Chapter 1:**
 - The idea is that we’re Nordics. I am, and you are, and you are, and -(Page 20)
- **Daisy sharing with Nick in Chapter 1 sharing her “very bad time”:**
 - “Sophisticated --- God, I’m sophisticated.” (Page 17)
- **Nick at McKee’s Bedside**
 - ...I was standing beside his bed and he was sitting up between the sheets, clad in his underwear, with a great portfolio in his hands.
 - ‘Beauty and the Beast ...Loneliness...Old Grocery HorseBrook’n Bridge...’(Page 44)
- Fitzgerald, as a Modernist writer, offers up fragments of the society making the reader fill in the words or actions that are absent in order to draw their own conclusion about the morality or lack of morality in a chaotic fragmented society.

Topics for Wrap-Up Discussion w/ Instructor

Chapters 6

Themes

American Dream from perspective of an adolescent Gatsby

Dream for the 17 year old James Gatz?

Dream changed for Jay Gatsby from his adolescence?

If dream changed in what way?

If dream did not change why not?

Love – Basis of Gatsby/Daisy's Love

Does Gatsby want Daisy as she exists?

Does Gatsby want Daisy as she existed?

Does Gatsby want Daisy as he imagined she existed?