

The Great Gatsby: Book Art & Theme

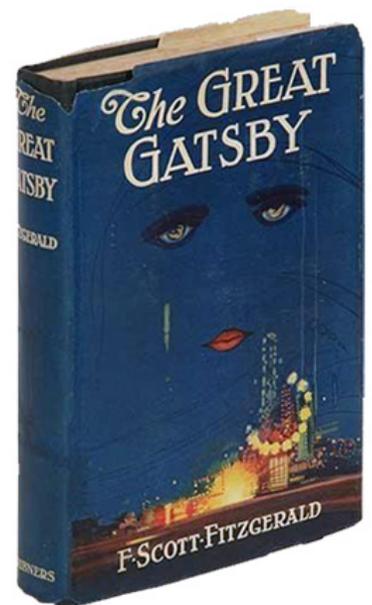
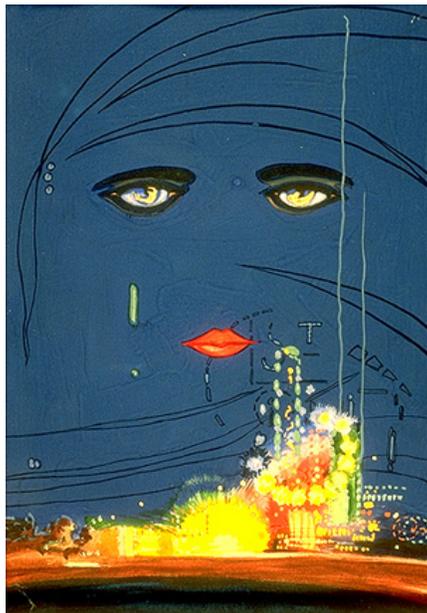
For an optional final task in the *Gatsby* unit, we are going to tie our understanding of the book back to the themes of the text. Recall any of the various themes we've noted about *Gatsby*. Your job, on your own, is going to be to take that theme and then **redesign the iconic *Gatsby* book cover** in a way that portrays your theme.

Your new book cover should make the theme of the book clear, simply through the designs, colors, and images you chose to show the reader before s/he experiences Fitzgerald's text.

PROCESS:

- Read the article that explains the history of that iconic book cover—where did it come from?
- Practice visual analysis.
- View the *Gatsby* book covers through the ages.
- Brainstorm/list some events and images from the book that reinforce your assigned theme. (For example, if you choose “unrealistic perception of love” you could write down “Daisy has an affair with Gatsby”.)
- Narrow down or consolidate some of these images into a conceptual design.
- **CREATE** your book cover!
 - Do this by hand or electronically.
 - Complete it on cardstock.
 - Use color, unless you have a reason not to.
 - Remember to include the book title and author in your design. (The size of these might have significance to your theme!)
 - Remember: your goal is to communicate your *theme* through your chosen images and design.
- When you are finished, type a two page explanation of your process. Tell me *how* your new design represents your assigned theme. (see back of this sheet for guiding questions)

For this one, you *are* graded on creativity and neatness. Please take time and care in creating this artistic project.



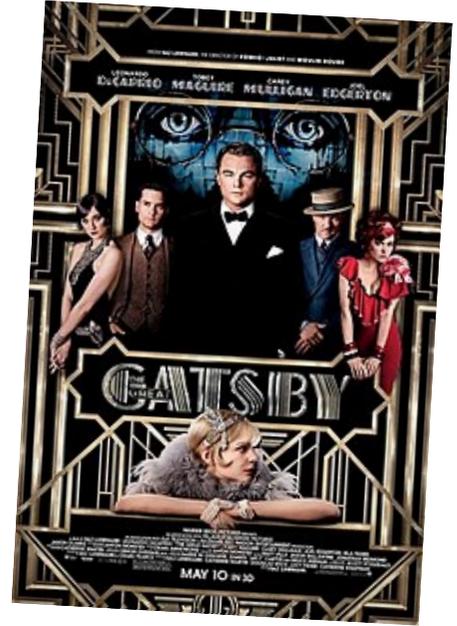
Your artist's statement:

As you write your analysis (artist's statement) of your own work, consider **some** of the following questions that may be relevant to your design. (Write your analysis in multi-paragraph form; do not just answer these questions, instead organize your response for clarity and flow):

- which theme are you trying to convey, and what is your overall artistic vision?
- what cultural values or ideals does the visual evoke, suggest, reinforce, or challenge?
- what emotions does the visual evoke, if any? How?
- how is your image composed? Why?
- what is your eye drawn to immediately? Why?
- what is in the foreground/background? Why?
- what is in/out of focus? Why?
- what is placed high/low? Why?
- what is to the left/right/center? Why?
- why are certain objects certain sizes in your art, if that's purposeful; why did you use a particular setting?
- why did you use the colors you did? What do they represent, and how do they reinforce your theme?
- what symbols have you included in your design, what do they represent, and how do they represent your theme?
- is anything repeated, intensified, or exaggerated?
- have you purposefully *omitted* anything from your book over?
- did you use a simple, or complicated design? why? how does that reinforce your theme?

The Great Gatsby

scene analysis



For this option, you will show your understanding of visual argument and film and pick *one* scene from *The Great Gatsby* (2013) to analyze with various elements of film.

This project has multiple steps, which include:

- Choose one of the scenes from *The Great Gatsby*. Any scene is fine as long as you feel it is worthy of discussion. You can find scenes from the film on Youtube, or you can rent the full film from Amazon or from the library. I also may have a copy you can borrow. Remember: even if you review the film with a friend, this is an *independent* analysis. Avoid doing the same scene.
- Analyze** (not summarize) the decisions the director made in filming the scene (based on questions and elements explained below).
- Put your findings into a nifty worksheet/handout, PowerPoint presentation, or other awesome visual and send it to me. It should be very clear which scene you chose and where it appears in the film.

Focus for analyzing your scene:

You will choose **three elements** to analyze. While you are viewing the scene, take notes on the specific elements you have selected from the following list. You must choose **one from category one and two from category two:**

Category One: Storytelling Elements – Choose 1

1. Interpretation of the Scene (setting, symbols, themes)
2. Production Qualities (Costumes, makeup, sets)

Category Two: Cinematic Elements – Choose 2

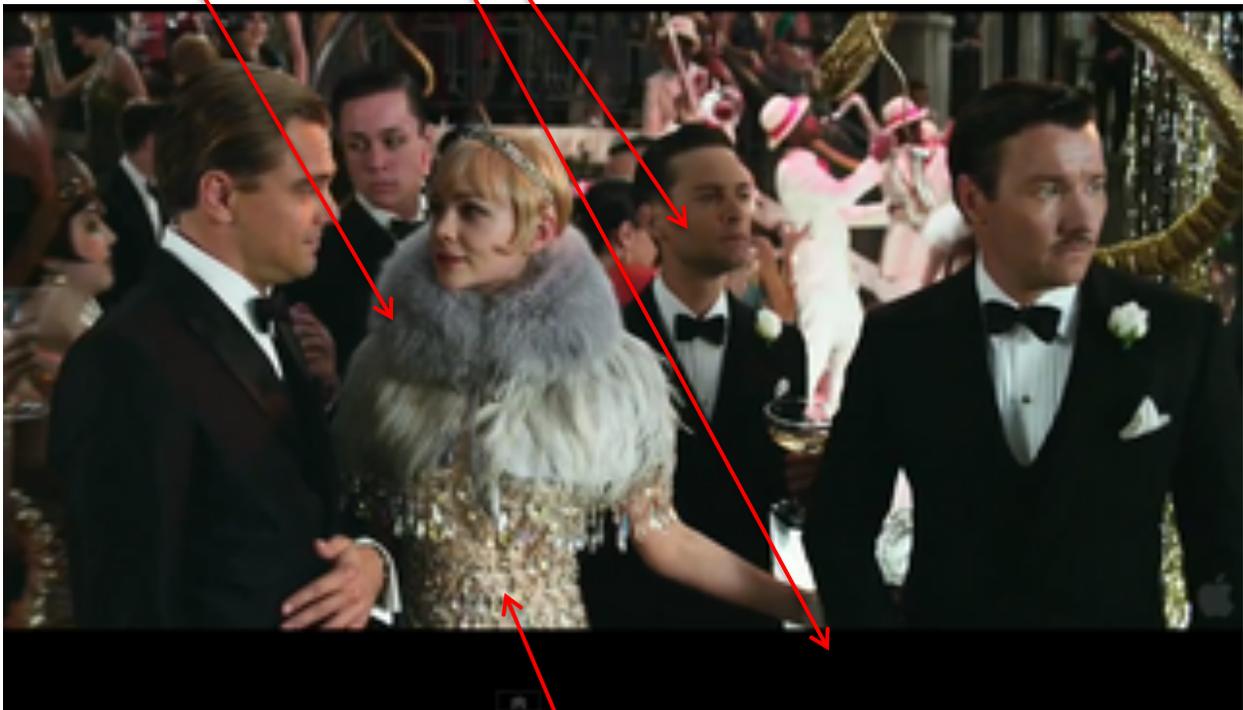
1. Framing (extreme close-up, close-up, medium shot, long shot, extreme long shot)
2. Lighting (high key, low key, back lighting, normal (be sure to describe what makes it “normal”))
3. Camera Angles (low angles, high angle, eye level, bird’s eye)
4. Sound (diegetic, and non-diegetic; describe any dialogue, music, voice-over, or sound effects)

NOTE: for each element you choose, your analysis comes when you explain *how* it reveals information about your interpretation of the film. Consider the *themes* of the film, *conflicts* in the film, and *characters* in the film. *How* do the elements you’re discussing (whether it’s costumes, symbols, sound, camera angles, etc.) help us understand the film at a deeper level? What can you teach someone about the film that they have likely not seen the first time? Is it *worth* discussing that particular element/is it insightful?

Expectations for your visual:

- Design your visual however you'd like—you may use a PowerPoint, a Word document, or any other infographic or creative approach, such as a recording or voiceover of the scene (much like DVD commentaries by directors/actors, etc. or YouTube critics.)
- Keep the visual “clean” looking. You may use bullet points and an outline format or complete sentences, but understand this is not an essay, rather an “at a detailed glance” interpretation of the scene.
- Make it clear which scene you are discussing. Use headings and titles to organize your information. **Include screenshots of the scene so I can see which exact shot or angle you mean.** Use time indicators, if necessary.
- Depending on the length of your scene, you obviously cannot include *every camera angle* or *every shot*. (If you choose those elements, try to do at least two of each.) Choose the ones that have relevance to the scene (not all will).

Medium shot: It is important we see the main four characters in this still from the party scene in chapter six, because this shot reveals information about each of them. This scene occurs after Gatsby and Daisy have been seeing each other for some time. We see this connection between them, since they are looking at each other and both have a slight smile on their face. At the same time, Daisy is holding onto Tom's arm, which reveals she still holds a connection to Tom, even if they are not “physically close” in this scene. It's interesting to note that Gatsby and Daisy are “behind” (to the left of) the others in the shot. At this moment in the book, they are living in the past, and Daisy looks *back* to Gatsby, who represents that past and the life she is “re-living” with him. Tom looks forward with a worried expression on his face: he does not know what the future may hold with Daisy. Clearly, she is “trapped” between the two and can't escape the situation. And Nick, of course, is trapped in the middle of this entire love triangle, so his placement is in the background of the scene, and he even looks fuzzy in comparison with these rich people who are in the foreground. Nick has a confused, contemplative expression as he attempts to navigate this drama.



Costume: It is worth noting that all of the men are dressed similarly in this shot, even Nick, who is of a lower class. This costume choice allows the focus to be on Daisy, who is drowning in bling. She wears white, as is common in the book, which presents an ironic portrayal of innocence (also in accordance with her name). She wears many jewels, which show her love of wealth—she wears it, she advertises it, she wants the attention of everyone at this party. These jewels also reinforce the objectification of Daisy—she is treated like an object throughout the text. The layers of fur prove this as well—Daisy looks like an animal in this scene. The fur covers her neck, a vulnerable part of her; she might be hiding something, and other women in the party are dressed provocatively. Daisy is “too good” for that West Egg fashion.