

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I invite you to delve into the intricate tapestry of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," a masterpiece that resonates with themes of illusion and disillusionment. As we navigate through the opulent world of Jay Gatsby, let us examine the critical symbols that Fitzgerald expertly weaves throughout the narrative.

Consider the green light at the end of Daisy's dock, a recurring motif that symbolizes Gatsby's unattainable dream and the broader American Dream. This elusive light represents not just Gatsby's yearning for Daisy, but the endless pursuit of goals that remain forever out of reach, illuminating the hollowness that often accompanies success.

Furthermore, the Valley of Ashes stands as a stark contrast to the grandeur of East Egg and West Egg, embodying the social decay and moral corruption hidden beneath the glittering surface of 1920s America. Through vivid imagery, Fitzgerald critiques the vast inequities and moral vacuity of the Jazz Age.

In a critical-interpretative lens, we understand these symbols not merely as artistic devices but as Fitzgerald's commentary on the American society. "The Great Gatsby" challenges us to question the authenticity of the American Dream and to consider the price of relentless ambition.

Thank you.