

Literary Device: Characterization

Claim: Myrtle is greedy and selfish

Theme Concept: power of wealth

Theme St. leads to corruption of good morals

**Topic Sentence:** In the novel The Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald uses characterization of Myrtle being greedy and selfish to develop the theme power of wealth can lead to corruption of good morals. {Elaboration} The novel focuses on the selfish and money hungry ideas of the 1920s which most people believed and practiced. For example, it is discovered Tom's mistress, Myrtle Wilson, lives in the "Valley of Ashes" and shares an apartment with Tom in the city. Her husband's garage is described as "a small block of yellow brick," and the apartment has "yellow windows" (Fitzgerald). Yellow is an archetype for decay and corruption which connects directly to Myrtle's homes and her lack of loyalty to her husband. By Fitzgerald using the color yellow, he reinforces the corruption of morals in Myrtle. After all she is having an affair with Tom. Additionally, when Myrtle and Tom begin to argue, "Tom broke her nose with his open hand" (Fitzgerald 37). Tom has violent behaviors, and Myrtle puts up with this because he is rich. Her willingness to be physically abused attests to her being greedy. Again it ties back to the theme because she will put up with this to keep the relationship with Tom and his money which shows her morals are corrupt. To conclude, Myrtle's greed and selfishness supports her loss of morality in her affair with Tom and with the abuse she takes.

Topic Sentence - Yellow  
Elaboration - [ ]  
Transitions are circled  
Evidence sentences - Pink  
Analysis - lit device - Green  
Analysis - Theme - Blue  
Concluding Sentence - Yellow