

"the great gatsby" – themes and moral lessons essay sample

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“ The Great Gatsby” – Themes and Moral Lessons Essay Sample

All books have themes and lessons in them that teach us something important after reading them. Sometimes these lessons are learned from the characters of the books. In *The Great Gatsby*, Jay Gatsby teaches us lessons about success, hope, and ethics or morals. Many of the characters in *The Great Gatsby* are used to construct different themes and teach us moral lessons.

Gatsby has been in love with Daisy for many years. Gatsby uses illegal and unethical ways to acquire wealth that he thinks he needs to have Daisy's heart. Since Tom and Daisy have a large house, a luxurious life, a comforted lifestyle, Gatsby feels he must have this too to win Daisy's heart. In fact, Gatsby tried almost every single thing that money could buy to try to satisfy his love for Daisy. He often threw extravagant parties with hope that she might show up and see him in all his wealth. " I think he half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night, but she never did." Gatsby never confronted her and told her his true feelings. And in the end the two never got together. Gatsby in reality was a lonely and unhappy person with no true friends. In fact only 3 people showed up to his funeral. This lesson shows that money cannot buy happiness.

They characters in the novel are corrupt in the way that they do not care for anybody but themselves. They are selfish and controlled by wealth and money. Love and happiness are things that can never be bought. For instance Tom and Daisy are married and have a child together, but they both

still commit adultery. " They were careless people, Tom and Daisy — they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made..."(Fitzgerald 170) . Daisy lost her love for Gatsby when she found out he was involved in illegal activities. Tom was angry about Daisy's affair even though he was having one of his own. The lesson here is that poor morals and ethics lead to corruption and unhappiness.

Gatsby's real reason for buying his mansion in the West Egg was to win Daisy's heart. He tries to cause a row between himself and Tom. " Your wife doesn't love you," said Gatsby " She's never loved you. She loves me." (Fitzgerald 130) Fitzgerald explains through the story that if dreams are too fantastic, then they can never be fulfilled. As you read the book you will find that Gatsby is a naive character, trying to attempt the impossible task of repeating the past. The lesson here is that a person cannot repeat the past.

In conclusion, the characters in " The Great Gatsby" teach us lessons of that happiness and love can not be bought, you can not repeat the past, and if dreams are to fantastic, they can never be fulfilled.