

Comparative essay – the great gatsby and romeo and



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Behind every great man lies a great woman. In some cases the woman herself may not always be good or ideal according to society. Nevertheless it seems to add character to the man, and also influences his actions and maybe even his morals. In Shakespearean literature, Shakespeare tends to use people to develop certain characters throughout the play. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet is the person with the most influence on Romeo. This influence allows him to develop as a character and also helps develop the play. This is also evident in *Hamlet and Ophelia*. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway's realization of the equality of man altered through his origin sets him up as a morally sound standard, until confronted by Jordan Baker. The "American Dream" will never be a failure if Jordan does not develop Nick into his final character. In the novel *Fifth Business*, Jung's theory suggests that the conscious part of Dunny's personality is brought out by Liesl. It is Liesl that allows Dunny to understand his function as "Fifth Business." The development of Dunny's character in the novel begins when Dunny falls in love with Faustina. It is because of these female characters that both protagonists learn to accept the emotional side of their lives, which are provided by these women, who possess immoral values that allows Nick and Dunny to develop into the final stages of their characters, essentially making them the same. Nick's realization of the equality of man and morals change when he comes in contact with Jordan Baker. Jordan possesses certain qualities that only benefit her. She likes to bend the rules so that the positive result ends up in her favor. She has allowed herself to be wrapped in a blanket of dishonesty that Nick would not be able to live, until he realizes that he can. It is undetermined whether or not Nick chooses to ignore

Jordan's dishonesty or whether it goes by naturally, because, in the early
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stages of the novel he does not seem affected by it. " No thanks, said Miss Baker to the four cocktails just from the pantry, I'm absolutely in training. Her host looked at her incredulously. You are!...How you get anything done is beyond me."(pg.. 27 In16)Now this was the first time Jordan and Nick came into contact with one another, and it is said thatthe first impressions are extremely important. However, for a strong moral person like Nick, hisreaction is surprising when he simply states, " I enjoyed looking at her."(pg. 27 In 23)This is a sign of his first stages of development, which will soon result into what the authorintended. The " American Dream" cannot be recognized as a failure if Jordan does not develop Nick into his final character. It is known that Nick, just like Dunny holds high moral values, but it is slowly beginning to be affected by Jordan Baker. Jordan has had such low moral values for quitesome time, which is evident in chapter four. " Daisy said to Jordan Baker...While she was drunkas a monkey, she told Jordan, Here dearis. Take'em back downstairs and give'en to whoeverthey belong. Tell'em Daisy's changed he mind!" (pg. 79 In 5) " But the next day she marriedTom Buchanan without as so much as a shiver..." (pg. 79 In 19) It was evident that Daisy and Jordan were both filled with immoral value before Daisy even got married. This laterbegins to affect Nick as well when Nick later found out from Jordan that Gatsby was once in love with Tom's wife Daisy. This shows how Nick begins to slip because he is now part of thedevelopment of the plot. It comes down to the point where a self-respected-man like himselfbegins to gossip. Nick inevitably stoops to a lower level. This may be bad in regards to hischaracter but is vital in the role of the novel. It is later that Nick realizes that he becomes twisted and that he finds

no desire to associate himself with careless people like Tom, Daisy, and Jordan, thus siding with Mr. Gatsby. He comes to an understanding at the end that he could not have come forth if it were not for Jordan Baker. Nick has finally reached the final stage of his character development.

The conscious part of Dunny's personality is brought out by Liesl. Jung states that, "One's self is composed of a group of several different kinds of psychic energy, each component of which has a different function in balancing the total self." Liesl has a small part in Fifth Business yet play a vital role in the novel. It could be argued that the end of the novel is a result of what she says to Dunny. This would not be so if she did not play a vital role in the developing of Dunny's character. "You underestimate yourself Ramsay. Are you not the writer of A Hundred Saints For Travelers? And Forgotten Saints of the Tyrol? And Celtic Saints of Britain and Europe? When Eisengrim mentioned last night that you were in the audience...I wanted to meet you at once. A distinguished hagiographer does not often come our way." (pg. 212 In 12) Dunny's reaction was much like Nick's, but nevertheless, would be deeply affected. "Many people when they are flattered seek immediately to show that themselves as being very hard-headed, to conceal the fact they have taken the bait. I am one of them." (pg. 212 In 31) At the end of the chapter Dunny will find his morals and spiritual value in the clutches of Liesl. Liesl confronts Dunny with the truth about life and about his function as "Fifth Business", and she also leads him to his conscious and recognition of his spiritual life. These actions cause Dunny to fill his "spiritual and emotional void," and as a result he brings Boy and Paul together to finish unfinished business, causing the book to unfold and end. These are one of

the confirming reasons why Liesl plays such an important role in the novel because without her, Dunny would have not developed into his final character and there would have no reason for the novel to be written. Dunny leads a double life that seems to be outwardly ordinary and normal. What he symbolizes is the journey that one sometimes takes in order to find one's inner self. It is Liesl that makes Dunny realize his flaws, and it is Liesl that gives him the initial push which ultimately helps finally complete his journey. The difference between Jordan and Liesl's approach are that Jordan does it naturally and Liesl just comes out in the open and splurges it out. As a result Dunny was quickly pointed out to his problems, and given a little nudge in the right direction of his fate as his character, and becomes "Fifth Business". "I wanted to tell you that you are human, like other people... You make yourself responsible for other people's troubles." (pg. 229 In 11) "But every man has a devil, and a man of unusual quality, like yourself, Ramsay, has an unusual devil. You must get to know your personal devil." (pg. 230 In 10) Thus making Liesl's job complete because as a result of Liesl bringing forth these truths about life, it brought Dunny to the last stage of his character's development. Even though Dunny's character development began with Faustina, this also shows that Dunny plays a vital role in bringing forth the character's repressed guilt that brings Boy's death as well as the end of the novel. Dunny's character development begins when he falls in love with Faustina. Dunny is first shocked when he encounters Faustina and Liesl in the dressing room. "I saw Faustina naked- she was always changing her clothes - in the arms of Liesl, who held her close and kissed her passionately;" (pg. 224 In 1) Dunny was devastated by this and went almost into a shock and rage because he believed that he was in love with Faustina. It was this that

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began Dunny's character development. He first begins to feel for what he has just seen, " I never knew such a collapse of the spirit even in the worst of the war. And this time there was no Little Madonna to offer me courage or ease me into oblivion." (pg. 224 In 7) Dunny finds himself upset because his morals and values came crashing down when he saw Faustina and Liesl, but he quickly and bluntly confronted by Liesl. " That is your privilege, watching life from the sidelines and knowing where all the players go wrong. Life is a spectator sport to you. Now you have taken a tumble and found yourself in the middle of the fight, and you are whimpering because it is rough." (pg.

225 In 25) This quote helps strengthen Dunny and also gives him that initial push towards his way of developing his character into the vital role, otherwise the novel would not have ended the way that it did. Throughout *The Great Gatsby* the characters' values are exposed for the reader and because of this, the readers are hence allowed a great insight into what a true nature of the character really is. At this point of the novel Jordan seems to be growing on Nick, and Nick is still not bothered by Jordan's dishonesty. It is important to know that Jordan is not dishonest in the sense that she sleeps around and is immoral in regards to her sex-life. This is important because Nick begins to feel tender towards Jordan's behaviour, but he comes to discover that her affections are a result to conceal her dishonesty. " At her first big golf tournament there was a row that nearly reached the newspapers - a suggestion that she had moved her ball from a bad lie in the semi-final round." (pg. 65 In 33) " Jordan Baker instinctively avoided clever, shrewd men." (pg. 65 In 3) Jordan avoided clever men because it made her secure

and she could not stand it when she was at a disadvantage. Nonetheless, assumptions can be made that she was taught this at a very young age in order to keep or maintain her image. Unlike Dunny, Nick takes a little longer to develop, and unfortunately realizes in an inopportune moment. This results in Nick still not being bothered by Jordan's morals because he is approaching a state where he is almost falling in love with Jordan. "Dishonesty in a woman is a thing you never blame deeply - I was casually sorry, and then I forgot." (pg. 65 In 12) Nick seems to be going through a gradual process of moral decay, because in the later stages of the novel, Daisy begins to have an affair with Mr.

Gatsby behind her husband's back. Yet with such high morals Nick avoids telling Tom and becomes part of the cause, when he helps organize meetings between Daisy and Mr. Gatsby, and he and Jordan are the only ones who know about the affair.

The women in *Fifth Business* and *The Great Gatsby* both shape Dunny Ramsay and Nick Carraway into the same person. In the novel *Fifth Business*, the development of Dunny's character begins when Dunny falls in love with Faustina. It is Liesl that allows Dunny to understand his function as "Fifth Business." Jung's theory suggests that the conscious part of Dunny's personality is brought out by Liesl. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, the "American Dream" will never be a failure if Jordan does not develop Nick into his final character.

Nick Carraway's realization of the equality of man altered through his origin sets him up as a morally sound standard, until confronted by Jordan Baker.

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Men and Women seem to be in constant battle for certain rights but in the end, it is obvious that society has a real difficult time dealing with such issues. It is the job of society to understand this, and come to a realization about themselves. "She lived by a light that arose from within; I could not comprehend it." Fifth Business (pg. 52)

Bibliography

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Nick's realization of the equality of man and morals change when he comes in contact with Jordan Baker. Jordan possesses certain qualities that only benefit her. She likes to bend the rules so that the positive result ends up in her favor. She has allowed herself to be wrapped in a blanket of dishonesty that Nick would not be able to live, until he realizes that he can.

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