

Daisy describes tom
buchanan as a
"brute" essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Tom Buchanan, the incredibly wealthy husband to Daisy, is undoubtedly portrayed as a selfish and violent man in the novel and comes to represent the immorality and materialism of the 'Jazz Age'. Tom had great sporting success at college, but now, having stopped, everything else feels like an "anti-climax". Tom is prejudiced and not very intelligent and for this reason I believe that Daisy's description of him is an accurate portrayal of Tom. Tom Buchanan inherited his wealth and because of this he feels like he is better than everybody else.

His wealth and sense of superiority makes him "careless" and uncaring. Tom shows a disregard for money which lets him dominate the lower classes. When buying Myrtle's dog, he insults the salesman by implying that the dog is overpriced while at the same time showing that he's so rich that it doesn't matter, "Here's your money. Go and buy ten more dogs". Tom also enjoys the power that he has over Mr Wilson as he promised to sell George a car, although he seems to have no intention of doing this as he puts him off until "next week".

Tom's repetition of the personal pronoun "I", for example when he tells Nick "I've got a nice place here" excludes Daisy from this, therefore showing the power he has over her as well. Tom bullies people both verbally and physically throughout the novel. Tom frequently interrupts and talks over other people, showing again that he is supercilious. In his first appearance, he interrupts both Daisy and Jordan so he can make his point, "Well, these books are all scientific". Also, when Nick meets Tom for the first time, Tom orders him around by "turning [Nick] around by one arm" and telling him "We'll go inside".

Tom also has a violent streak which really comes across when we see him break Myrtle's nose with the " short, deft movement" of his hand. The adjective, " deft", meaning skilful and quick, shows that this display of violence has no effect on Tom. Tom is very racist and worries that immigrants will challenge his privileged existence. He fears that " the white race will be utterly submerged" and he is scared that the traditional class system where he's on top might collapse and the ' new rich' will take over. Tom is also fiercely sexist and not only abuse Daisy but does not like her having freedom, saying " women run around too much these days".

Tom isn't very intelligent and doesn't seem to understand the books that he reads on science. When Tom tries to justify his prejudices he speaks in rambling, uncompleted sentences, " We're Nordics. I am, and you are, and...". However, Tom does have a few positive character traits. Despite his abusive relationships, Tom does seem to be in love with both Myrtle and Daisy. When he discovers Myrtle's dead his " tears were overflowing", and when Daisy tells him she doesn't love him he speaks with a " husky tenderness".

Also you could arguably say that, unlike many characters in the novel, including Nick Carraway and Jay Gatsby, that Tom doesn't try to hide his true opinions and therefore is arguably one of the more honest characters. Tom Buchanan, through both his actions and what he says, shows clearly that he, in the most part, fits the description of a " brute" as described by Daisy. He is unfaithful to Daisy and selfishly pursues his desires with no regard for the consequences. As Nick states, " they smashed up things and creatures and

then retreated back into their money and let other people clean up the mess"