

Merit of English Section

Senior Division

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Book Title : The Great Gatsby

Author : F. Scott Fitzgerald

Publisher : Charles Scribner's Sons

~ Introduction ~

“The Great Gatsby”, written by F. Scott Fitzgerald and published in 1925, is a classic American novel that explores the themes of wealth, love, desire, and the pursuit of the American Dream. Although I'm sure you've all read romance novels and seen how different love stories are told, this romance isn't as traditional as you may assume. This story set

in the Jazz Age is about Nick Carraway's meetings with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's fixation with his ex-lover.

~ Summary ~

The story starts off with the narrator, Nick Carraway moving from the midwest to the west egg of New York. He then meets Jay Gatsby, who's known as an affluent man who hosts extravagant parties. And later learns that the reason he hosts the parties at his grand mansion is to attract attention to himself in an effort to win back the affection of Daisy Buchanan, the lady he formerly was courting after. However, she is now married to the wealthy Tom Buchanan, and because of his intense infatuation with her, it has caused him to reinvent himself and gain enormous wealth to appear more appealing and worthy, in her eyes.

As the story unfolds, Nick found out more of Gatsby's background and the source of his wealth, and came to the

realisation that he had amassed his fortune through illegal activities. Which makes it evident that Gatsby's existence is nothing more than a mere masquerade, constructed upon illusions. Gatsby's fortune, his esteemed reputation, and the lavish parties he hosts that are attended by the elites of society, serve as a spectacle designed to draw Daisy's attention and are nothing more than tools he employs to achieve his ultimate goal of reuniting with his former lover. Nevertheless, beneath the surface of this captivating image he has made for himself, Gatsby suffers from loneliness and delusion, yearning for a love that will forever elude his grasp.

~ Analysis ~

Fitzgerald skillfully captures the essence of the Jazz Age, a time marked by hedonism and the pursuit of material wealth. The riotous parties hosted by Gatsby and the attitudes of the affluent elite paint a striking portrayal of the moral decay lurking beneath their outwardly glamorous lives. Through

descriptions and poetic prose, the novel explores the paradoxes inherent in the American Dream, shedding light on its elusiveness and the disillusionment that often accompanies its pursuit.

For instance, during a scene in which the majority of the protagonists attend a party, Tom Buchanan and Jay Gatsby argue angrily, upsetting Daisy to the point where Tom drives her home. Myrtle, Tom's mistress, was found dead on the side of the road a short while later while Nick, Jordan (Nick's girlfriend), and Gatsby were driving home from the party.

Remarkably, it was later revealed that Myrtle was struck by Gatsby's vehicle, Nick is confused by this, and the following day he visits Gatsby's mansion where it is supposedly revealed that Daisy was the one driving, even though it was Gatsby's automobile that ran her over, even though later on it was apparently assumed to be an accident, Gatsby still took the blame for her. Nevertheless, it has been said that Daisy

showed no remorse for Myrtle. Which truly shows how relentless she was towards the situation. And even skipping town leaving the destructive influence behind.

This demonstrates Gatsby's blinding love for Daisy and his willingness to give his life to keep her safe, even if it ruins his reputation. It also illustrates his disillusionment in believing he can win the girl just by virtue of his newfound wealth and rank, even coming to turn a blind eye to Daisy's incident.

Resulting into him dying.

~ Conclusion ~

All things considered, I believe that "The Great Gatsby" is a timeless work that can connect with readers because the narrative is still relevant today, allowing readers to consider their own lives and the society they live in. It's also a classic piece of American literature that helps people appreciate the artistry of writing more deeply, as well as increase their English vocabulary. It also serves as a reminder that pursuing

wealth and social status does not guarantee happiness or fulfillment and that the pursuit of noble ideals, sincere relationships, and integrity are the only ways to achieve these things. It also points out the importance about the influence of wealth and the illusion of the American dream. And acts as a reminder of the importance of living a meaningful life, being true to yourself, and being in love.

For this reason, I think it's a terrific book that's well worth reading because it has made my heart a flutter with its story of romance and good times of friendships they've established, especially with their human morality and the way how Nick demonstrated that he was not easily persuaded nor influenced by the old money mindset of his seniors. The book by itself has not only improved my vocabulary in English but also deepened my grasp of English literature, which has sparked my interest in reading in general.