**GATSBY REVIEW CHECKLIST**

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| Columns | “The Australian”, Issue #, Page #, Picture(s), captions, headline, byline in bold |
| Present tense | MUST be in present tense. It is an article for a present day newspaper. |
| Narrative + task requirements | Address the task sheet. Does the film successfully convey Fitzgerald’s themes? |
| Hypothesis | Link to hypothesis throughout, drive your argument. |
| Paragraph structure | Still use PEEL, but loosely/creatively. Each paragraph should have a clear topic sentence. |
| Persuade | You are persuading the reader NOT giving a summary of the novel/film. Assume the readers know most of the plot. |
| Compare/contrast | Similarities and differences and does Baz successfully convey Fitzgerald’s themes? |
| Quotes | Incorporate at least 2 quotes. |
| Introduction | Should highlight the key aspects of your article. |
| Key words | Positions readers  Representations  Represents  Narrative  Film techniques  Effective  Successful  Adaptation  Era/1920’s roaring twenties |

**FEEDBACK**

Focus on the film, making reference to the novel when writing your review. The bulk of each paragraph should NOT be on the novel – the question is: “Does the film successfully convey Fitzgerald’s themes as revealed in the novel?”

REMEMBER to be fun and creative with your writing – it’s meant to be an entertaining review.

*It is certain that Luhrmann’s fresh, possibly over exaggerated, but altogether glorious take on this classic, stays true to the core themes of destruction, ambition and The American Dream.*

Your TOPIC sentence should relate to the film – specifically the key point of that paragraph. EG:

*After viewing Luhrmann’s masterpiece it is easy to understand why the film enthrals a contemporary society, bringing Gatsby well and truly back to life and reminding audiences of the never ending need for hope in our lives.*

*One of Luhrmann’s brilliant touches is his ……..*

*While Fitzgerald’s original novel is undisputedly the classic foundation for this story, Luhrmann’s film adds a rich texture and wonderment that enthrals a contemporary society.*

Not ALL paragraphs need to follow PEEL.

Use language to create the WOW factor the same way Baz uses over the top props, costuming to create the WOW factor.

*Themes of unattainable love, longing for the past, and wealth acting as both a façade and security blanket are encapsulated …*

*Baz Luhrmann’s film is full of visual excitement, owning his portrayal of The Great Gatsby with loud parties, extravagant outfits, fast cars and over-the-top shows of drunken rage and joy.*

**NEED** to refer back to hypothesis throughout your review to really drive home your argument. **MUST** use **HIGH MODALITY!!** Really convince the reader!

The following work is sourced from:

<http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/the-great-gatsby/literary-elements.html>

**THEMES**

***The main theme of the novel is:***

* The rise and fall of the American Dream. It is debatable whether Buchanan represents the American Dream, by which people obtain their wealth openly and legally, whatever their status in society, in contrast to Gatsby, for whom the acquisition of wealth has its origins in the underworld. Tom Buchanan is unfaithful; Daisy Buchanan is artificial and unfaithful; Gatsby himself is a mysterious and shadowy figure, who caught a glimpse of an entirely new world of the upper class. The fall of the dream is the reality that results from the initial world of limitless possibility.

**SYMBOLS**

* The green light on the end of Daisy’s dock clearly represents Gatsby’s dreams (hope), but has other, more subtle, associations such as money. This also seems to symbolise the possibility of Gatsby winning back Daisy, far away in the distance and out of reach. It can also act as a veil that hides the true Daisy from Gatsby’s eyes.
* The disembodied eyes of a giant advertisement in the slum where Myrtle lives, referred to as the eyes of “Dr. T. J. Eckleburg”, symbolise a dark presence in the slum, as if God is constantly watching those who live there, a symbol which the characters themselves are aware of; George Wilson’s assertion that “God sees everything” in chapter 8 being made while he is staring at Eckleburg’s eyes.
* The use of colour in The Great Gatsby is one of the most important techniques used in this book to show different themes. The colours white and yellow have special significance in the novel. White is a symbol of purity and goodness, while yellow is the colour of corruption and greed. This illuminates the character of Daisy, who is named after a flower that is white on the outside and yellow in the centre. The ‘green’ light represents wealth and the American dream. Grey is a representation of the lack of life, of happiness (Valley of Ashes).
* The road from West Egg to NYC contains a veritable waste land known as ‘the ash heap’. The ash heap, which George Wilson lives, symbolises the constant plight of the poor, all the while enduring the constant oppression of the wealthy. The social decay brought on by this cyclical way of life in America is represented by the ash heap.