

<u>Aspect of Narrative</u>	<u>Definition and explanation</u>
Narrative Voice/Narrative Point of View	<p>The voice/perspective from which the narrative is told.</p> <p>In 'The Great Gatsby', is narrated from the first-person. Fitzgerald hands over the narrative to Nick Carraway who, in the first chapter, introduces himself not only as a narrator but as author, referring to the story he is writing 'a book'. Casting himself in the role of author suggests he is claiming an omniscience, a 'god-like' authority over the story he is about to tell. However, Nick is also a participant and character, hovering admiringly on the edges, implicated in the secrets, desires and pasts of the characters who stories he is telling. It is through Nick's consciousness that the story of Gatsby is mediated and he neither omniscient not impartial.</p>
Characterisation	<p>The techniques a writer uses to construct a fictional character.</p> <p>Characters are shaped in multiple ways. Characters are shaped and developed through how they look, what they say, how they speak, what they do, attitudes they express, description by the narrator or in the voices of other characters and how the contrast to other characters.</p> <p>In 'The Great Gatsby', Nick's character is predominantly constructed through his own voice. The other key characters are constructed through their names, appearances, dialogue, relationship with other characters and what Nick says about them. Many of the characters contrast, highlighting their distinctive and unique qualities (e.g. Daisy vs. Myrtle).</p>
Setting	<p>Where the events of the narrative take place.</p> <p>The story of 'The Great Gatsby' unfolds against a backdrop of contrasting settings, conveying a sense of the different strands of society at the time. From the extravagant mansions of East and West Egg, to Nick's modest cottage, the rented flat in Manhattan and the impoverished Valley of the Ashes. Each setting holds symbolic significance and contribute to central themes. They can also be understood as an extension of the characters themselves (Gatsby >Gatsby's Mansion).</p>
Dialogue/Speech	<p>Constructed conversation in written texts.</p> <p>In the 'Great Gatsby' dialogue serves to develop the characters, drive the plot, explore key themes and ideas and create moments of tension and drama. Direct speech is the most common form of representation in this novel, using inverted commas to indicate the actual words spoken, with a quotative phrase, indicating who spoke. This may be a simple 'he/she said' but it is important to notice if the writer adds some interpretation in their choice of verb (<i>insisted</i>) or use of individual adverbials (<i>incredulously</i>). These words and phrases may suggest the character's thoughts and feelings. The narrator may make this explicit (<i>I guessed at his unutterable depression</i>).</p>
Symbols	<p>An image or object that stands for a bigger abstract idea, belief or feeling. Unlike a motif, a symbol can be used on a single occasion and never mentioned again.</p> <p>Symbols in the novel include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valley of Ashes ● Green Light

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eyes ● Automobiles ● Telephones ● Movies ● Advertising ● East and West ● Sun and water ● Light ● Clothes ● Weather ● Colours ● Trees and leaves ● Windows
Motifs	<p>A recurring word, phrase, image, object or idea running throughout the text.</p> <p>Motifs, each of which stands for a complex range of feelings, associations and values are part of the structure of the novel, providing continuity and coherence. Motifs are also one of the ways that themes are created and conveyed.</p>
Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sequence of events ● Openings ● Endings 	<p>Refers to the overall shape of the novel and the way the author has constructed or put the story together.</p> <p>‘The Great Gatsby’ tells the story of the one Summer in 1922. Nick Carraway tells the story retrospectively a couple of years later. For the most part, the events are narrated in chronological order, from the perspective of Nick. However, Nick also reveals the backstory for Gatsby, the Buchanans and Jordan, as well as his own.</p> <p>‘The Great Gatsby’ opens with the narrator, Nick Carraway, introducing himself to the reader. Through his narration, the reader learns that Nick will tell the story of an elusive figure called ‘Gatsby’ retrospectively. Nick also offers some philosophical reflections, that reveal some of the key themes that will be explored in the novel. In the opening pages, Nick tries to form a relationship with the reader in an attempt to make them trust the story he is about to tell. However, whilst Nick claims that he is merely an impartial observer of the story, his narration seems contrived and judgmental and therefore reader is left questioning the reliability of both his narration and his role in the story.</p> <p>‘The Great Gatsby’ ends with Nick reflecting on Gatsby’s death. Similar to the beginning, Nick offer some philosophical reflections of Gatsby’s story.</p>
Handling of time	<p>In ‘The Great Gatsby’, time is handled and manipulated in various ways to serve different purposes. Nick, the narrator, in his telling of the story, focuses on specific events in detail (thereby seemingly lengthening time) whilst skipping or briefly referencing others. This draws the readers’ attention to certain events, characters and themes in the novel. It also is important to consider why Nick skips</p>

	<p>the retelling of certain events (usually to avoid revealing too much about</p> <p>Time also has a thematic function as well as stylistic and structural purpose in the novel. The symbol of the clock</p>
Themes	<p>An idea, concept or issue – it is what we, as readers, interpret the story as being about. A writer may draw attention to a theme through a repeated motif, a symbol, a character, an event or a setting.</p> <p>Core themes in ‘The Great Gatsby’ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aspirations and The American Dream ● Class, status and wealth ● Appearance vs. reality ● Idealism vs. realism ● Identity ● The past and nostalgia ● Desire ● Heroism ● Honesty and deceit ● Corruption vs. purity ● Masculinity vs. femininity ● Isolation
Prose Style	<p>The special qualities of the writer’s prose such as sentence length, choice of lexis, characteristic sentence structures and use of imagery.</p> <p>In ‘The Great Gatsby’, Fitzgerald makes uses of a ‘Romantic modernist’ style which combines lyrical motifs and imagery with words and phrases associated with our modern world (automobiles, movies, finance etc.). Fitzgerald may be using Romantic language to expose the ‘debasement of the modern era’ or using modern imagery to ‘renovate’ Romantic language. The juxtaposition of the Romantic and modern is also reflective of the story of Jay Gatsby.</p>
Genre/Generic conventions	<p>A particular type of text.</p> <p>There are recognised narrative genres (romance, crime, horror, thriller, adventure, science-fiction etc.) which provoke particular expectations in their reader which the author with fulfil or challenge in the novel.</p> <p>‘The Great Gatsby’ includes conventions of various genres including tragedy (protagonist has a fatal flaw which leads to his demise), romance (love triangles – Daisy, Gatsby and Tom) and mystery (the withholding of information and narrative gaps to build tension and suspense). Some might even consider it a modern fable (a short story with a moral lesson).</p>

