

Candidate 3 evidence

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	Section 2- Critical Essay - Part B - an 5.	
5.	A story which explores the theme of appearance and reality is F. Scott Fitzgerald's, "The Great Gatsby." Through evocative use of symbolism, imagery, and characterization, Fitzgerald creates a character who perfectly embodies the futility of the American Dream - the ideal belief by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, regardless of their origins - allowing him to explore key themes of appearance versus reality.	
	The story, set in 1920's New York follows Jay Gatsby, the eponymous hero who wishes to win back his former lover the Daisy Buchanan. The story explores the futility of the American Dream as Gatsby's undying love for Daisy leads to his ultimate death.	
	Initially, Gatsby is introduced to us through a mysterious way. At the party rumours surface which intrigues the reader. "He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way and, as far as I was from him, I could've sworn he was trembling... nothing except a single green light." To see that The green light on the edge of Daisy's dock is symbolic	

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	<p>of her. To see Gatsby physically reach out towards the light, we understand the extent of his yearning for Daisy and the life she lives. This is a prime example of Fitzgerald's interpretation of the American Dream as it highlights the motivation behind the fabricated life of Jay Gatsby. This key moment emphasises how it seems as though Gatsby yearns for a new light, but in reality it's much more than that as he hopes for a life with Daisy, revealing his naivety in his belief that he can repeat the past.</p>	
	<p>Throughout After Nick meets Gatsby, we learn that looks truly can be deceiving. "I had talked with him perhaps half a dozen times in the past month and found that, to my disappointment, he had little to say." Through ^{bold} characterisation of Gatsby built up from the image of his extravagant parties and rumour mill, we expected him to be a full-blooded strong character. Fitzgerald uses this scene to emphasise how things may not be as they seem, and it leads us to doubt Gatsby as we wonder if he's truly the darling character he's believed to be, or just a man with a carefully constructed persona.</p>	

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<p>Fitzgerald deepens the plot behind the character of Gatsby when he introduces a friend from the past. "Meyer Wolfsheimer? No, he's a gambler." Gatsby hesitated, then added coolly: "He's the man who fixed the World Series back in 1919." This connection to a criminal such as Wolfsheimer leads us to doubt our admiration for Gatsby as it is one of the first points in the novel when Fitzgerald reveals that the Gatsby's quick millions may not have come from a moral place. By revealing the lengths Gatsby has gone to try fulfil his American Dream, Fitzgerald explores key themes of appearance v.s. reality as it looks as though Gatsby's affiliation with criminals makes him one too. However in reality, we know that everything Gatsby has done has been to earn Daisy's love, and by revealing the lengths he will go to do so, he is seen as truly admirable.</p>	
<p>Fitzgerald further deepens the plot behind the character of Gatsby when he reveals that he worked his own way up. "The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg Long Island, sprang from his platonic conception of himself." This highlights themes of appearance versus reality as with the riches Gatsby has, you would never expect him to to</p>	

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	<p>have been poor. In reality, Gatsby worked a lot of effort into becoming who he is. Young James Gatz's diary reveals targets he set himself. "Practice elocution pose, and how to attain it." These daily targets reveal the effort put into becoming the perfect version of James Gatz, - Jay Gatsby. In reality, you the obstacles Gatsby has faced wouldn't have been expected. Gatsby's strive to achieve his American Dream is truly admirable.</p>
	<p>As the novel reaches its climax, tensions begin to rise between the characters at this time. Fitzgerald conveys this when Tom accuses Gatsby of being a bootlegger of not having received education. "Mr Gatsby, I assume you're an Oxford man. Now Tom's voice incredulous and insulting." "You must've gone there about the time Biloxi went to New Haven." We know that Gatsby was born poor. We know that Gatsby had partly received education. Through characterisation of Tom, Fitzgerald reveals the truly shallow nature of the elite as Tom's snide comment insinuates that Gatsby is uneducated. The direct reference to Biloxi implies he had never received an education at all. Tom insults Gatsby again later on, accusing him of being a bootlegger.</p>

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<p>Upon realising Daisy's reaction to this, Gatsby reveals as a new emotion. Nick says, "For a moment, he looked as if he had killed a man." We know that Gatsby hasn't actually killed anyone. In reality, the image of Jay Gatsby is now dead as all of the effort, time and money put into becoming Jay Gatsby has gone to waste.</p>	
<p>Fitzgerald also critiques ^{explores} the the theme of is appearance and reality as he critiques the idea that wealth equates to happiness through effective characterisation of the Buchanans. "The Buchanans messed up things and creatures, then returned into their money, or their vast carelessness of matter ... letting other people clean their mess they had made." The Buchanans are wasters. The valley of ashes can be used to describe them as it represents the extreme wealth inequality and the social divide between the rich and the poor. Fitzgerald further critiques this idea as he implies that if Gatsby's dream was ruined by the unworthiness of Daisy. Nick says, "What a grotesque thing a rose." This implies that roses are only seen as beautiful because of the value people placed on them. By saying this, it is implied that Daisy appeared to be the love of Gatsby's life as</p>	

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	<p>he made her a major part of his dream. This implies that if Gatsby had not essentially raised Daisy onto a pedestal, his dreams could've been fulfilled. This further cements the ideology that the Buchanans are users, because in reality Daisy would have never chosen Gatsby over Tom as she is aware of the reality that Tom has something Gatsby's money can't buy - an education and a past. This emphasises the corrupt nature of the American Dream as it highlights the idea that to not everyone's dreams can be fulfilled, no matter how close you are to fulfilling them. Gatsby himself died trying.</p>	
	<p>In conclusion, F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" explored themes of appearance versus and reality. As Fitzgerald constructs a character through evocative uses of characterization, symbolism and imagery, Gatsby perfectly symbolises the corruptive nature of the American Dream and how it can ruin lives, rather than uplift them.</p>	