

## Thematic Collage Art Label

I chose to create a thematic collage, that focuses on the theme of wealth throughout Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. Social class is a critical theme that gets explored throughout the story. The writer divides New York into three parts, West Egg, East Egg and the Valley of Ashes which connects the two fictional villages. The idea of West and East Egg represents the idea of the new rich and the old rich. East Eggers are people who are born into rich families and are part of the upper class, whereas the West Eggers are considered people who were not rich by birth and are part of the middle class. The last social class in the novel, is the lower class. People living in the Valley of Ashes are considered the poor people who live without any kind of ambition.

I chose to present my collage by building a yellow Rolls Royce car that Nick Carraway describes Gatsby's car as. This car in itself represents the dominance in commercialism and how wealth is the center of attraction for society.

The yellow colour of the car represents the true colour of Gatsby's car and the lies behind Gatsby and even the whole society in West Egg itself.

The green lights at the front of the car represent money, wealth and even hope, since this car is representing Gatsby's car in the story, the green lights specifically represent Gatsby's hope of winning Daisy back into his life.

The couch inside of the car represents the laziness of the rich and even the poor people in society. Since nobody had a way to improve or get better, because of the American Dream and the social classes, everyone would live the life they have with their amount of wealth.

The three men sitting inside of the car represent the three different characters that the author describes. The man sitting behind the steering wheel is Gatsby, the next one is Tom and the last one is George Wilson. Their size describes how they are viewed in society. The biggest man is part of the upper class, the middle one represents the middle class and the smallest represents the lowest class.

The money on the men's suits represents their wealth and how the money consumes them as people. Both Gatsby and Tom have the same amount of money on their suits, since they are equally as rich, but Gatsby still is seen as the middle class since he wasn't rich by birth.

The different types of hats that the men are wearing, represent wealth and a certain characteristic of the social classes that they are representing. Tom's purple hat represents wealth, since he has the nicest hat, it also represents both violence and the extreme carelessness of the upper-class people in East Egg. Gatsby's yellow hat represents the wealthiness of the middle class and the false standards of people like Gatsby and even the society itself in West Egg. Since George Wilson has the ugliest hat, his hat represents the poorness of the people living in the Valley of Ashes and the violent acts that people like George himself, commit to.

The bow ties on the men's necks represent their wealth. Gatsby and Tom both have the same bow tie made out of money, showing that their classes are equal in wealth, but George Wilson has one out of paper similar to theirs, this shows that people of the lower class try to look the same as the people superior to them, but they are unsuccessful.

this is awesome!

The clock on top of the car's hood replaces the Rolls Royce bonnet ornament sculpture of *The Spirit of Ecstasy*, which would normally be on the hood of this type of car. This clock represents how wealth was passed on through the family in the upper class. The clock also represents the way people like Gatsby, wanted to get rid of their past of a poor life and tried to hide where they actually come from. By lying to people about his past, Gatsby looks like he could be part of the upper class and he is able to keep people in curiosity without anybody really knowing, that he hasn't always been rich. ✓