

Write about the significance of the ways F. Scott Fitzgerald ends his narrative in the Great Gatsby

The significance of the way F. Scott Fitzgerald ends his narrative in *The Great Gatsby* is important because it concludes the story and answers our questions, it also brings everything about *Gatsby* together. Fitzgerald writes in first person and this helps us to everything in Nick Carraway's perspective.

In Chapter 9 a lot of events from *Gatsby's* past are revealed, Nick holds a funeral for him but hardly anyone turns up. *Gatsby* was running away from his past and that is all he is at the end, his father who attends his funeral. Fitzgerald also ends his narrative with Moral corruption, *Gatsby* technically saves Daisy and pays the consequences for her actions by taking the blame for the murder she committed and she doesn't even send her condolences at the funeral.

The green light at the end of Daisy's East Egg dock visible from *Gatsby's* West Egg lawn represents *Gatsby's* hopes and dreams for the future. This is linked with chapter 1 when he reaches towards it in darkness and acts as a guiding light towards his goal. *Gatsby's* desire to be with Daisy is associated with the American Dream. The light also represents hope for a better way of living for not only the characters in the novel but other individuals.

Fitzgerald writes using a Chiastic structure, the past and present meet in the end. Also on page 186 we get a feeling that Tom and Daisy accept no responsibility for their actions and "let other people clear up the mess they had made".

Fitzgerald portrays the 1920s as an era of decayed social and moral values, shown through its cynicism, greed, and empty pursuit of pleasure, the recklessness epitomized in *Gatsby's* parties corrupted the American dream. Tom and Daisy betray the belief that America is a land of opportunity when they don't accept *Gatsby*. Nick explains in chapter 9 that the American Dream was about discovery, individualism and the pursuit of happiness however the social values of the 1920's era has corrupted the true American Dream. In Nick's mind, the ability to create meaningful symbols plays a big part of the American dream, as early founders of America invested their new nation with their own ideals and values.

The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg could represent God looking down upon America and judging it as a moral wasteland, however this point is made implicitly in the novel. Fitzgerald suggests that symbols only have meaning because the characters instill them with meanings. *Gatsby* never swam in his pool and ironically he is shot right before he is about to swim in his pool.

Finally, *Gatsby* had many parties however he never felt the happiness that he felt when Daisy was at his house, the only reason he threw parties every Saturday night was to attract Daisy to his house. This is significant to the way Fitzgerald ends his narrative because the various people that attended *Gatsby's* parties evidently show

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the greedy need for money and the clash between old money and new money manifests itself in the novel.

In conclusion I think that the way Fitzgerald ends his narrative is very significant, it lists the loss of belief in America and the ignorance of the upper class who disregarded the American dream and corrupted it. I also think that Fitzgerald portrayed many of his ideas through Nick and this could be another use of Eckleburg's eyes, which could represent Fitzgerald looking down at everyone instead of God.