Literary Analysis

Write a 2-page analysis of a theme from the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Consider how Fitzgerald uses literary techniques to develop a theme in the novel.

Step 1: Choose a theme from the novel.

Money can’t buy happiness.

You can and should only be in love with one person for your whole life.

We can achieve our ideals of perfection.

It is part of the American Dream to acquire wealth and social status.

Money can help make people fall in love with us.

If it seems possible to achieve an important goal, you should be able to do anything necessary to make it happen.

Friends and family shouldn’t care if you marry someone from a much lower social class.

Daydreams can be more real than reality.

Men and women have equal power in their romantic relationships.

Achieving the American Dream is possible for anyone.

Step 2: Choose literary techniques.

Characterization

Settings

Figurative language

Symbols

Plot development

You may consider one or more techniques as you analyze how Fitzgerald develops the theme.

You will need to present a clear thesis that offers your insight into the novel’s theme and how it is developed using literary techniques. Then you should use ample evidence from the story to support your insight. You should organize your thoughts and present them in a clean, structured piece of formal academic writing.

Your paper should be in MLA format (typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1″ margins). Choose a title for your paper that reflects its main ideas.

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| Category | Superior: 20-19 | Good: 18-16 | Developing: 15-14 | Not Yet: 13-10 |
| Ideas | You demonstrate unique insight into a theme and literary technique(s). Your analysis demonstrates an unusual depth of understanding. | You explain a theme and literary technique(s), showing how the techniques contribute to the theme’s development. | Your paper addresses a theme but does not show insight into how they are developed using literary techniques. | Your paper does not address the assignment. |
| Organization | You demonstrate control and sophistication in organizing ideas to make a point. Your introduction is catchy and compelling. Your body paragraphs transition smoothly. Your conclusion highlights the importance of your insights. | Your paper has clear introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs, with a thesis addressing the prompt and topic sentences introducing each body paragraph. | Your paper exhibits rudimentary organization, but it is at times random or disjointed. | The paper lacks organization and cohesion. |
| Support | You develop your ideas thoroughly, presenting abundant, convincing evidence from the story for your interpretation. You smoothly incorporate summaries, paraphrases, and quotations. | You provide adequate support for your thesis using examples from the story, including at least three direct quotations. | Your paper incorporates some examples from the story, but they are either not sufficient, poorly integrated, or you do not show how they relate to your point. | You do not present support for the ideas you present. |
| Presentation | You use correct MLA paper format and consistently maintain a formal academic voice. Your paper is free of grammar and convention errors. You demonstrate control and sophistication in making linguistic and stylistic choices. | You use MLA paper format and an appropriate formal academic voice. Your writing is generally smooth and free of grammar or convention errors. | You deviate from MLA paper format or occasionally slip from an academic voice. There are occasional distractions because of convention errors or awkward language use. | You do not follow MLA paper format. Your voice is consistently informal. Error-ridden language often distracts from your point. |