

# THE GREAT GATSBY

Friday, February 2

Did you know that the use of color is one of the main themes in *The Great Gatsby*? I've turned my normal lesson into notes for you. I'll post the powerpoint that goes with it on the website.

***After reading the first part of chapter two, use the text and notes to complete this chart.***

Words or phrase containing color reference	Inference about mood, theme, or character based on color.

1. What is your initial perception of this area? What adjectives come to mind? What details in particular lead you to your impression?

2. What colors predominate in this scene? What do they suggest?

# COLOR SYMBOLISM IN THE GREAT GATSBY

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Almost every chapter of Fitzgerald's novel uses colors in their purest shades to make readers get an insight into the different characters' lives. Naturally, to fully fathom these colors mentioned, readers must also first understand the situations within which they are used.

### Colors Used By Fitzgerald

**WHITE**

**BLUE**

**GOLD**

**YELLOW**

**RED**

**GREEN**

**GREY**

**WHITE**

Cleanliness Innocence Purity Freshness

White is commonly used throughout Fitzgerald story and appears in every character's description. White also represents the East Egg through the quote; "across the courtesy bay the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water." But the use of the color white emphasizes the innocence and purity is deceiving and hides the truth of these wealthy people.

**BLUE**

**Depression Moody Unhappy**

The color blue is more closely related to the character of Gatsby than any other character. Blue resembles Gatsby's illusions; his deeply romantic dreams of unreality. His gardens are blue, his chauffeur wears blue, the water separating him from Daisy is his "blue lawn", Tom's car is blue, along with the blue coat that Cody buys for Gatsby. Also the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg are blue, making the eyes of God into a non-existing dream.

**GOLD**

**Gold represents the authentic, traditional and real money.**

Gold is represented by the old rich, such as Tom and Daisy's money. Gold is what separates the real rich from the others. Gold contrast greatly with green, with the concept and differences between old money and new money. Old money is gold, authentic and real, while new money is cheap with the flimsy green bills. Therefore, one can examine that Fitzgerald is using color symbolism to depict the differences between Gatsby and Tom and Daisy's money. Gatsby is the new money, green. While Tom and Daisy are considered old money, gold.

**YELLOW**

**Yellow represents fake money.**

Yellow is very different from gold. Yellow is fake gold, its veneer and is used for show rather than substance. Gatsby is considered to be yellow rather than gold, due to his newly acquired money and his inability to enter the high class society of New York City.

**RED**

**Danger Passion Boldness Love**

Red is associated with blood, so it is the symbol of violence, danger and rage. The inside of Buchanan's home is in red. "We walked through a high hallway into a bright rosy- colored space." "Inside, the crimson room bloomed with light."

**GREEN**

**Hope Promise Envy Money Future**

Green is most closely associated with both the green light of Daisy's dock and the "green breast of the new world." Both unite the hope and promise of Gatsby's dream with that of America itself. Fitzgerald uses green to symbolize money and its power in society. Money rules the lives of the people in the story.

**GREY**

**Lifelessness Neutral Dull Lifeless Unimportance**

Gray is associated with the ash heaps in the Valley of Ashes, it can be described as a connection to a barren of lifelessness. The main character that can be related to grey is George Wilson. The gray represents his unimportance. Also Wilson's face is "ashen" and a "white ashen dust" covers his suit, and his eyes are described as "pale" and "glazed."