

## Analyzing language in The Great Gatsby

**Objective:** Students will be able to annotate two passages in order to determine the dominant effect of each

### Jay Gatsby's House

I lived at West Egg, the—well, the less fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the [bizarre](#) and not a little [sinister](#) contrast between them. My house was at the very tip of the egg, only fifty yards from the Sound, and squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season. The one on my right was a [colossal](#) affair by any standard—it was a factual [imitation](#) of some [Hotel de Ville in Normandy](#), with a [tower](#) on one side, [spanking new](#) under a [thin beard of raw ivy](#), and a [marble swimming pool](#), and more than [forty acres](#) of lawn and garden. It was Gatsby's mansion. Or, rather, as I didn't know Mr. Gatsby, it was a mansion inhabited by a gentleman of that name. My own [house was an eyesore](#), but it was a small eyesore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor's lawn, and the consoling proximity of millionaires—all for eighty dollars a month.

### Tom Buchanan's House

And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to East Egg to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all. Their house was even more elaborate than I expected, a cheerful red-and-white [Georgian Colonial mansion](#), overlooking the bay. The lawn started at the beach and ran toward the front door for a quarter of a mile, jumping over sun-dials and brick walks and burning gardens—finally when it reached the house drifting up the side in [bright vines](#) as though from the momentum of its run. The front was broken by a line of [French windows](#), glowing now with reflected [gold](#) and wide open to the warm windy afternoon, and Tom Buchanan in [riding clothes](#) was standing with his legs apart on the front porch.

Criteria for an excellent analysis paragraph

- sophisticated embedding of quotations (e.g. brackets, ellipsis, colon)
- precise use of literary terms
- thorough, specific, relevant interpretation (no “blank words”), 2:1 analysis to quote ratio
- advanced academic vocabulary



### Success Criteria for Passage Analysis from The Great Gatsby

#### Sophisticated embedding of quotations

- short words / phrases fit smoothly into the writer's own sentences

#### Insightful Analysis

- analysis matches the claim and elaborates on connotations, implications
- valid, reasonable analysis (not a stretch or misinterpretation)

#### Development

- follows TEXT guidelines (EXX x2)
- 2:1 eXplanation to quotation ratio

#### Quality of Writing

- Careful proofreading for complete sentences, usage, capitalization

### Model Analysis:

Nick Carraway's admiration for the Buchanans comes through clearly in his description of their beautiful home. His details about the mansion's colonial architecture as well as the imagery of the American flag in the red brick and white columns against the blue water suggest that, like the family, the home is native to the United States and has a sense of history and belonging. Nick admiringly captures the athleticism and virility of Tom himself in his description of the landscape which he personifies as "r[unning]," "jumping," and "drifting" with a kind of vital energy. Above all, Nick characterizes the estate's value and worth as the sunlight "glows" and "burn[s]" in "reflected gold," the imagery of precious metals capturing the precious nature of the Buchanans' home.