

Character Analysis

800-1,000 words

MLA Format

Rough Draft Due: Tuesday, Dec. 7

Final Due: Thursday, Dec. 16 (last day of class)

Choose a primary character from either *The Great Gatsby* or *To Kill a Mockingbird* and give a thorough analysis of the person's role in the story, his/her impact on the plot, and other details that fully flesh out why the character is essential to the story.

Characterization Details to Spotlight:

- Role in the story (Archetype may be relevant here)
 - For example, Nick is more than just a narrator and Daisy's cousin. He is a voice of reason, Gatsby's one true friend, and plays the role of Mentor/Wise Man in the story.
- Prominent personality traits (including Voice and habits)
 - For example, if you write about Jay Gatsby, it would be worthwhile to mention how he uses "Old Sport" to endear himself to Nick, his body ticks (foot-tapping), and how his confident facade crumbled around Daisy.
- Physical description (only the ones that matter)
 - For example, Scout fits the stereotype of a "tomboy" by refusing to wear a dress.
- Relationships with other primary characters (only as it defines the character)
 - For example, Jordan's purpose is to reveal secrets, thereby creating conflict and pushing the plot forward. It would be prudent to analyze her role as it unfolds alongside Nick.
 - For example, Jem's role as a big brother to a feisty little sister often prompts him to take a parental role with Scout.
- Conflicts the character encounters (internal and external)
 - For example, Atticus must endure criticism from townspeople for defending Tom Robinson.

For each claim you make about a character, you must offer evidence. That means each body paragraph should include a cited scene, event, or piece of dialogue that proves your claim is true.

For example, if you write about Jordan, the following would be a good passage to cite because it speaks to how popular Jordan was but also how Nick wrestled with how he felt about her:

"At first I was flattered to go places with her, because she was a golf champion, and everyone knew her name. Then it was something more. I wasn't actually in love, but I felt a sort of tender curiosity. The bored haughty face that she turned to the world concealed something -- most affectations conceal something eventually, even though they don't in the beginning -- and one day I found what it was" (Fitzgerald 57).

MLA Format

- Times New Roman, 12 pt, double-spaced
- Written in the third person
- Heading in top left corner
- Title (Ex: If you write about Atticus, you could title it *Maycomb's Hero.*)
- Thesis statement at the end of the introduction
- Cited scenes/events in body paragraphs
- Separate Works Cited page