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Great Gatsby: Writing Styles

*The Great Gatsby* is a novel that shows strong uses of writing styles and is full of effective, vivid details. The novel is full of examples of use of color, imagery, strong quotes, symbolism, diction, and syntax. However, in the novel *The Great Gatsby* the use of diction and syntax and symbolism are most effectively displayed.

*The Great Gatsby* shows many examples of diction and syntax. The diction in the novel consists of some difficult words and some not so challenging words. There were words like “disarray”, “hauteur”, and “notoriety” that needed a dictionary to understand better what the novel was trying to say. On the other hand, there were a lot of simple words in the sentences throughout the novel like, “Tom stopped beside the porch and looked up at the second floor where two windows bloomed with light among the vines.” The syntax in *The Great Gatsby* mostly consisted of long sentences that made the book have big paragraphs with lots of detail. One example of long sentences in the novel said, “The living room was crowded to the doors with a set of tapestried furniture entirely too large for it so that to move about was to stumble continually over scenes of ladies swinging in the gardens of Versailles.” Another example from the book with long sentences with lots of detail is, “At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motor boats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam.” The syntax had dialogue between the large paragraphs too. ‘“Who is he?” I demanded. “Do you know?” “He’s just a man named Gatsby.” “Where is he from, I mean? And what does he do?”’ That is an example of the short dialogue that is squished in between the long paragraphs. Another example of the dialogue in *The Great Gatsby* is, ‘“We can’t argue about it here,” Tom said impatiently, as a truck gave out a cursing whistle behind us. “You follow me to the south side of Central Park, in front of the Plaza.”’ The first example of dialogue shows the short, fast-pace conversations and the second example shows the dialogue in the novel with details and thoughts in between the quotes. The novel consisted of many good examples of diction and syntax that weren’t as hard as the ones from the novel *The Scarlett Letter*.

In the novel *The Great Gatsby* there are many strong examples of symbolism. One form of symbolism was the green light from the side of the lake where Daisy lived. They green light could have represented Gatsby’s greediness for wanting Daisy back. It could have also represented his desire for Daisy since he always looked out to watch the light. Another symbolic thing from the book were Dr. T.J. Eckle’s eyes on the billboard. This could have represented a god-like figure always watching over them. It could have also represented the eyes of the rich people looking down upon the poor people in the valley of ashes like George and Myrtle. The last symbolic thing was the parties at Gatsby’s house. I think it represented how Gatsby wanted to be like everyone else but didn’t always fit in. I think it also represented that he would try anything to see Daisy, even by inviting her to his party. There were many examples of strong uses of symbolism throughout the novel.

The novel The Great Gatsby displays many effective examples of diction and syntax and symbolism. It is a strong novel with writing styles vivid and precise. Fitzgerald writes strong and effective and clearly shows great examples of strong writing styles.