

Themes – PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE

Use this sheet to collect quotations about the theme explored in the central box.

<p>Aspects of Artifice – Key Quotations</p>	<p>Perception and Artifice</p> <p>Fitzgerald's novel is concerned with the ideas of perception and artifice; that is, how the characters perceive themselves and each other, but also how their world of artifice is used to sustain these perceptions. For example, the initial musings of Nick, Myrtle and Tom at the apartment in New York about Gatsby, reflect clearly the importance of how he is perceived by others. Equally, the 'white palaces' of East Egg also play an important role in the artifice of perfection that the otherwise imperfect characters create.</p>	<p>Different Perceptions of the Characters – Key Quotations</p>
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Themes

Listed below are a number of aspects of the narrative that explore the idea of Perception and Artifice.

Complete a chart for each one.

- Rumour and speculation
- The property & decoration of the East Egg residents
- The social roles and functions of the different characters
- The characters' private lives.

RUMOUR AND SPECULATION & THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE PROPERTY AND DECORATION OF THE EAST EGG RESIDENTS & THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE

QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

SOCIAL ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF DIFFERENT CHARACTERS & THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE

QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE?

Themes

(Enlarge to A3)

THE CHARACTERS' PRIVATE LIVES & THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE		
QUOTATION	CHAPTER / PAGE NUMBER	HOW DOES THIS SHOW THE THEME OF PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE?

Themes and character

(Enlarge to A3)

Each of the characters in *The Great Gatsby* are pretending to be something at one level or another – it might be to themselves or to one another. Complete the table below to show what the characters are pretending to be.

CHARACTERS & PERCEPTION AND ARTIFICE		
CHARACTER	WHAT IS THEIR PRETENSION?	QUOTATION

➔ **Practice Exam Response Question**

‘This is a novel in which the tension between the internal and external lives of the characters is as much a contrast as East Egg and the Valley of the Ashes.’

With close reference to the text, discuss the validity of this statement.