

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

# Auszug aus:

'The Great Gatsby' Movie 2013 - Filmanalyse und Unterrichtsreihe (Advanced)

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Titel:

'The Great Gatsby' Movie 2013

Filmanalyse und Unterrichtsreihe (Advanced)

#### Bestellnummer:

### Kurzvorstellung:

- Diese Unterrichtsreihe zum Film "The Great Gatsby" beinhaltet ausführliche Interpretationshilfen, Unterrichtsvorschläge und Arbeitsblätter. Sie führt dabei allgemein in die Analyse von Filmen ein und gibt andererseits konkrete Vorgaben zur strukturierten Erarbeitung der Filmanalyse und zur Interpretation des Werkes.
- The movie 'The Great Gatsby' is not only full of life and diversity, it also conveys the messages of Fitzgerald's novel in an elaborately worked out plot structure with all the elements brilliantly joined together to create meaning. Since the movie has a modern touch and offers a large variety of approaches, it is excellently suited for analysis. This teaching material explores some of what makes this work of art so beautiful and skillful.

### Inhaltsübersicht:

The material includes teachers' and students' material about the following topics:

- Collecting information about the film
- Structure and comprehension
- Analysis of the settings, the main characters and the central motifs
- The Great Gatsby and the American Dream
- Analysis of J-Zay's rap song 100\$ bill (intro, verse 1)
- The central conflict
- Scene analysis



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### Analysis of the plot structure

*Scene 0 Opening* 0:00:00

### **External frame**



The film starts in black and white with a black screen in the middle of which a round, misty center can be seen. Skillfully designed frames appear and in the center the pictures of the film companies' trademarks become visible, followed by the dictum 'A life in fear is a life half lived'. Now the camera focuses on an emblem with Gatsby's initials 'JG'. The black and white colors disappear in favor of Technicolor, while the emblem is changing into the central motif of a mysterious green light far away at the end of a bay. This central motif appears with the main theme when important events concerning Gatsby's dream occur. The sound motif is related to the motif of the green light when the conflict is palpable. Now the voice of a first-person narrator can be heard. The timbre of his voice and the music contribute to the wistful atmosphere the opening scene conveys.

Scene 1 Nick Carraway 0:01:30

### **Internal frame**

After a change of scene the viewer can see the narrator talking to his psychiatrist in a room of 'The Perkin's Sanatorium', the setting of the frame story. This setting recurs at certain moments throughout the film to mark decisive stages of development either in the frame or in the main story. The interplay between the frame story and the main story forms the outer structure of the plot and symbolizes Nick's internal conflict. It is also a means to broaden the viewer's perspective on the main plot because the story is told from a limited and remote standpoint revealed by the date 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1929 in a medical file on the psychiatrist's desk. Furthermore the file provides information about the narrator's name, which is Nick Carraway, and his mental problems resulting from a stay in New York. Nick tells the doctor that he was disgusted with everybody except a man named 'Gatsby'. This remark moves the plot forward.

(Flash back 0:03:08)

The scene offers a view of New York in 1922 with some places and objects that describe the historical background and some of the movies' themes. A modern soundtrack, quick editing, a large variety of camera positions and changes of field size generate the impression of a diverse, lively and fast moving city which is on the pulse of the 1920s. In this setting the narrator presents himself as a hopeful young man who has come to New York attracted by the promises of the city. The viewer also catches a glimpse of the setting 'West Egg' in Long Island, where Nick rents a small cottage among the luxurious mansions of the new rich. Suspense is created by two matters. First Nick anticipates that he didn't study hard enough to become a successful bond salesman, which had been his intention, second Nick draws the attention to his neighbor Gatsby hidden behind a curtain on the upper floor of his house as someone who has to do with his failure. The second part of the scene is accompanied by contemporary jazz music to point at various possibilities of distraction.

(Flash forward) 0:04:58

The scene at the sanatorium, which is introduced with the sound motif and Gatsby's emblem, is a connecting link between the frame and the main story.



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