

SAMPLE LENS

l = connections to lens

R Restate quote as a sentence

E Explain/ Interpret

A Free Cite

Thesis: Connects characters to the lens

Topic Sentence: Makes connection between character + lens

Notice that titles are underlined

Duff Brenna once said, "All literature shows us the power of emotion. It is emotion, not reason, that motivates characters in literature." In other words, a character's feelings are so powerful that they often override practicality and drive him or her to make sometimes unreasonable choices. This is proven in The Crucible, a play by Arthur Miller, and The Great Gatsby, a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. John Proctor is guided by intense feelings of guilt and honor, while Gatsby is driven by his obsessive love for Daisy.

In The Crucible, John Proctor goes through a series of emotions which influence several of his decisions but ultimately lead him to peace. In the play, Proctor's usual practicality is challenged by the hysteria taking over Salem during the infamous witch hunts.

Proctor, who is a complex character struggling with his integrity, is forced out of the shadows and launched into the limelight when he finds him and his family caught up in the hysteria.

Proctor initially struggles with guilt over an affair he has with Abigail Williams, his servant, and tries desperately to make amends with his wife, Elizabeth. When Abigail accuses Elizabeth of witchcraft in hopes of taking her place as John's love, Proctor's loyalty and dedication leads him into court where he exposes his sin. His willingness to ruin his good name for the sake of his wife demonstrates his loyalty to her and shows how he is led by his emotions. It also

characterizes him as a good man who is willing to sacrifice himself in order to save his wife. By admitting to his lechery, he's hoping to expose Abigail's true motives and debunk the

accusations. However, Mary Warren succumbs to the girls' pressure and recants her testimony admitting to lying about the accusations. She then turns on John and accuses John

of being "the Devil's man." Proctor then faces another internal conflict - to give a false confession and save his life or refuse an admission of guilt and hang. Logically, he could have

saved his own life, but Proctor is motivated by a sense of honor. A dynamic character who struggles with guilt, he finds a way to clear his conscience and do what he feels is right. In a

climactic moment, he tears up his confession showing his dominant motivation which is to save his name for the sake of his legacy and children. Though this decision leads to his death,

include mention and discussion of literary elements.

he is at peace with himself knowing he did what was right in his heart. Proctor's emotions lead him to his death, but they also help him to regain the honor he feels he lost.

In Fitzgerald's American classic, Jay Gatsby is continually motivated by an obsessive love of Daisy, and this intense emotion often overrules any sense of reason. The story, set in

the decadent Roaring Twenties, is a story of the American Dream. Jay Gatsby pursues his dream of breaking out of poverty to become truly great which, in his eyes, means having

status and wealth. This dream is inspired further when he meets Dan Cody, a rich copper tycoon who teaches Gatsby about the life of a wealthy man. Gatsby begins his journey fueled

by his intense desire to become rich. Gatsby, whose ambition is evident since he is a child, meets Daisy, a beautiful and affluent girl, who offers him even more incentive to become "great". Once he meets her, he makes it his sole purpose to gain wealth so that he can be with

her. His love becomes obsessive as shown by his purchase of a mansion across the bay from her. While living there, he stares out longingly at the green light symbolizing his quest for a goal which is just out of reach. Reason does not dominate for Gatsby whose love-fueled quest leads him to make unrealistic and poor choices. For example, he throws lavish parties all for the purpose of a chance meeting with her. The dominance of his emotions puts further

distance between him and his grasp on reality. This is evident in the fact that he assumes Daisy will leave her husband for him after they reunite. He is blinded by his emotions much so that he covers up for her when she runs over Myrtle Wilson, Tom's lover and

George's wife. Even though it is unreasonable, he thinks he still has a chance with her. This decision leads to his untimely death when Myrtle's husband kills him out of vengeance.

Gatsby's inclination to be led by his emotions destroys his sense of reason and reality.

Both characters make decisions based on emotions even though these decisions might

not be the most pragmatic. John gives up his life as a result of his sense of honor. Gatsby's

love for Daisy becomes his sole motivation. As proven in much of literature, emotions tend to dominate over reason.

Topic Sentence ties Gatsby to lens

interrupter offset by commas: a good way to vary rhythm of sentence

Be sure to connect ideas

try to work in symbolism for Gatsby

cite evidence without plot summary

so

(conflict)

Clincher "echoes" the main idea/ connection to lens

Conclusion:

Rephrase thesis

Rephrase topic sent. #1

Rephrase topic sentence #2

Rephrase interpretation