**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 11**

**Literary Devices in *The Great Gatsby***

1. Symbolism
	* The Green Light: Symbolizes Gatsby's unattainable dream of rekindling his relationship with Daisy and, more broadly, the American Dream itself—an ideal that remains forever out of reach.
	* The Eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg: Represent the moral and spiritual decay of society. The eyes are a haunting reminder of the loss of genuine values in the pursuit of wealth and pleasure.
	* The Valley of Ashes: Symbolizes the decay and corruption underlying the glamorous world of East Egg and West Egg, representing the moral decay of the American Dream.
2. Foreshadowing
	* The novel foreshadows the tragic outcome of Gatsby’s pursuit of Daisy, particularly through Nick’s reflections on the “unreal” nature of Gatsby’s dream and the inevitable collapse of that dream.
3. Irony
	* There is dramatic irony in Gatsby’s belief that he can recreate the past with Daisy. Nick, the narrator, is aware of the impossibility of this dream, yet Gatsby persists in his futile quest.
	* The contrast between the luxurious lives of characters like Tom and Daisy, who have everything, and the emptiness they feel, further highlights the novel's critique of the American Dream.
4. Motif of Time
	* Time is a recurring motif in the novel, particularly through Gatsby’s obsession with recreating the past with Daisy. The phrase “can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!” shows his refusal to accept the passage of time and the inevitability of change.
5. Allusion
	* The novel makes various references to classical literature, as well as to the social and political issues of the 1920s, particularly the notion of the American Dream.
6. Narrative Structure
	* The novel is narrated from Nick’s perspective, which allows for both a personal and reflective recounting of the events. This structure creates an unreliable lens through which the reader views the characters and the American Dream, as Nick is both involved and detached, creating ambiguity in the narrative.