

How does F. Scott Fitzgerald tell the story in chapter one of The Great Gatsby?

F. Scott Fitzgerald tells the story using a variety of different features...

Fitzgerald tells *The Great Gatsby* from the perspective of Nick Carraway, an unusual choice of narrator who tells his recount of events in retrospect, looking back at his 'younger, more vulnerable years' this tells the reader from the off that he is, in his opinion- wiser and older than he was when the story is set, inferring that he is a reliable narrator and this idea is further demonstrated when Carraway tells us that he is 'inclined to reserve all judgments'. This does not mean that because the story was written at a time in which he was vulnerable his account of events could be biased, as he was impressionable when they happened. Carraway is quick to bombard the reader with his credentials, which suggests that he is conscious of the reader forming an opinion of him and wants to be liked and trusted by the reader. Fitzgerald has generated a here narrator that can be seen as both unreliable and reliable, the most prominent evidence of this is on the first page of the book Nick comments that Gatsby represented everything that he hated and simultaneously he adored him. He says there was something 'gorgeous' about Gatsby, suggesting that we will get a very subjective account from Nick of what the character of Jay Gatsby was like. There are proleptic details in the opening pages of the book such as Nick's frequent mention of morals especially where he tells the reader he wanted the world in uniform and at a 'moral attention' for ever, this coupled with when he previously says his tolerance has a limit suggests that where the novel is set there are very slack morals. Fitzgerald has also planted a curiosity in the reader as to what has exceeded Nick's tolerance.

Fitzgerald manufactures sympathy on the second page of the book and before we have any real information about Gatsby. It can be deduced that he is impressionable and he is described as 'preyed' on suggesting through no fault of his own his dreams were dashed. This creates intrigue in the reader as to what has happened to him, fixing the fight towards Gatsby as he is almost seen as victimized. He is presented as an enigmatic character in chapter one, Fitzgerald includes throwaway comments about Gatsby throughout the first chapter where Gatsby will be mentioned and the subject will quickly change, this builds up suspense and makes the reader want to carry on reading and desperate to meet him. At the end of the chapter, Nick watches Gatsby stood at his dock before he disappears into his vast mansion, having given the reader a glimpse of Mr. Gatsby. Tom Buchanan is described as restless quite frequently and so the character of Gatsby forms a juxtaposition between the two characters because he is later on in the chapter (page 15) at the first sighting of Gatsby he is said to be 'regarding the silver pepper of the stars' which makes him sound like a gentle man who enjoys the finer things in life. Nick is also made as a contrast to Gatsby and Tom as he can be seen as quite a boring character and so the 'great' nature of Gatsby is made more apparent to the reader.

in the Our first description of Daisy is when she is relaxing on a couch in her house with a friend, both wearing white dresses, the wind is blowing them so that the dresses 'rippling and fluttering as if they had just been blown back in after a short flight around the house'. This shows, with the white of her dress emphasizing a pureness, which suggests a disconnection with the real world, a life free from the dirt of hard work. This contrasts with the onomatopoeic 'snap' and 'whip' and general association with the semantic field of violence. Fitzgerald uses colours to represent ideas