

From Chapter 1—the two women on the couch P. 7 & 8

5 “We walked through a high hallway into a bright rose-colored space, fragilely bound into the house by French windows at either end. The windows were ajar and gleaming white against the fresh grass outside that seemed to grow a little way into the house. A breeze blew through the room, blew curtains in at one end and out the other like pale flags, twisting them up toward the frosted wedding cake of the ceiling—and then rippled over the wine-colored rug, making a shadow on it as wind does on the sea.

The only completely stationary object in the room was an enormous couch on which two young women were buoyed up as though upon an anchored balloon.

10 They were both in white and their dresses were rippling and fluttering as if they had just been blown back in after a short flight around the house. I must have stood for a few moments listening to the whip and snap of the curtains and the groan of a picture on the wall. Then there was a boom as Tom Buchanan shut the rear windows and the caught wind died out about the room and the curtains and rugs and the two young women ballooned slowly to the floor.”

Diction

Highlight the colors in this passage, determining how the colors create a certain effect. Particularly note the repetition of “white” and the idea of “white,” and consider connotative meaning.

Colors Commentary:

Figurative Language

Note the figures of speech, identify what particular type each example is, and connect to the tone of this passage. You should identify at least five figures of speech.

Figure of Speech Commentary

Imagery

Choose two images that particularly appeal to you and help you to imagine this scene in your mind. Explain how Fitzgerald creates a certain mood and tone with these images.

Image Commentary:

Sound Devices (especially onomatopoeia)

Give examples of sound devices and connect to tone.

Sound Device Commentary:

Shift

Determine where a shift in tone occurs in this passage. What/who causes the shift? How do diction, syntax, and sound devices change after the shift? Explain in several sentences.

Syntax

Note the polysyndeton* in the last sentence. The repeated “and’s” simulate the wind dying down, as objects slowly settle in the room. This device creates the sense that the time it took for everything to settle back down and deflate after Tom shut the window was drawn out and long.

Now look at another syntactical pattern Fitzgerald uses—loose/cumulative sentences. This passage contains no periodic sentences*, which develop a sense of tension as the reader waits for the main idea, the independent clause, by the period, at the end of the sentence. Every sentence in this passage is loose/cumulative, except for the last sentence, which is a series of balanced independent clauses.

* Polysyndeton- A literary technique where conjunctions (and, but, or... etc) are used repeatedly in quick succession. This occurs often with no commas.

*Periodic Sentence- A sentence structure used for emphasis and has the predicate/ main clause at the end.

What is the effect of Fitzgerald’s use of these loose/cumulative sentences? What emphasis does it add to the final sentence? Write several sentences as explanation.

