

The rich do not experience time in the same way as the working classes who have been governed by a precise and accurate perception of time since the Industrial Revolution. For the rich, time remains hazy and localised as it was in pre-industrialised age.

Nothing is beyond the power that money wields; even the natural world can be managed with the right amount of money.

The division of labour in this extract must be examined as an economic phenomenon but also a social and emotional one.

Women are presented as vacuous, unintelligent and devoid of memory: they are fodder for the men at the “party”.

Women at the party are vulnerable and thus open to manipulation and abuse.

The impermanence of happiness within this social setting is symptomatic of the consumerism necessary to perpetuate a capitalist society.

Food waste is not only a symptom of a class driven society, it is a symbol of wealth and success.

In the extract, the location represents the whole subconscious mind of the party’s host and the light, colour and busy images are a representation of the host’s loose grip on reality.

The bombardment of the senses deliberately mask an underlying sadness within the extract.

A common feature of literary epics and fairy tales alike, the inclusion of a great banquet in the exposition is menacing, foreshadows later turmoil and highlights the naivety of those who take part in the feast.

Music and art belong to the working class but are appropriated by the wealthy.

The party is described using the language of childish fantasy, and demonstrates the desperate attempts of those present to return to a child-like state devoid of responsibility.

Gatsby is a magician; the cocktails, potions; the music, incantations; the food, otherworldly and full of menace. The guests are at the mercy of his magical power.

The scene of the party is a metaphor for the descent of man to his primeval state, devoid of morals and driven by his most basic instincts.

Living an extravagant life is the only way to truly know you are alive.

Making connections with people is the true measure of a man.

You cannot understand the life you are living; you must be on the outside to truly perceive.

Female characters are little more than a consumable product.

Depravity is the inevitable consequence of success.

Achieving your dream is the ultimate failure of imagination.

In a world of vacuous people, the only defence is to isolate yourself.

Reputation is the only thing of value to a man.