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## A VOCABULARY FOR DESCRIBING LANGUAGE

### TONE

#### ***TONE (POSITIVE)***

##### **Happiness**

amiable*	cheery	contented*	ecstatic	elevated*
elevated*	enthusiastic	exuberant*	joyful	jubilant*
sprightly*				

##### **Pleasure**

cheerful	enraptured*	peaceful	playful	pleasant
satisfied	amused	appreciative	whimsical*	

##### **Friendliness, Courtesy**

accommodating*	approving	caressing	comforting	compassionate
confiding	cordial*	courteous	forgiving	gracious*
helpful	indulgent*	kindly	obliging*	pitying
polite	sociable	solicitous*	soothing	sympathetic
tender	tolerant	trusting		

##### **Animation**

ardent*	breathless	brisk	crisp	eager
excited	earnest*	ecstatic	energetic	exalted*
feverish*	hasty	heartly	hopeful	inspired
lively	passionate	rapturous*	vigorous*	impassioned*

##### **Romance**

affectionate	amorous*	erotic*	fanciful*	ideal*
lustful	sensual*	tender		

##### **Tranquility**

calm	hopeful	meditative*	optimistic	serene
relaxed	soothing	spiritual	dreamy	

#### ***TONE (NEUTRAL)***

##### **General**

authoritative*	baffled*	ceremonial	clinical*	detached*
disbelieving	factual	formal	informative	learned
matter-of-fact	nostalgic*	objective*	questioning	reminiscent*
restrained*	sentimental*	shocked	urgent	

##### **Rational/Logical**

admonitory*	argumentative	candid*	coaxing	critical
curious	deliberate	didactic*	doubting	explanatory
frank*	incredulous*	indignant*	innocent	insinuating*
instructive	oracular*	pensive*	persuasive	pleading
preoccupied*	puzzled	sincere	studied*	thoughtful
uncertain	unequivocal*	probing*		

##### **Self-Control**

solemn*	serious	serene	simple	mild
gentle	temperate*	imperturbable*	nonchalant*	cool
wary*	cautious	prudent*		

##### **Apathy**

blasé*	bored	colorless	defeated	dispassionate*
dry*	dull	feeble*	helpless	hopeless
indifferent*	inert*	languid*	monotonous*	resigned*
sluggish*	stoical*	sophisticated*	vacant*	

**TONE (HUMOR/IRONY/SARCASM)**

amused	bantering*	bitter	caustic*	comical
condescending*	contemptuous*	cynical*	disdainful*	droll*
facetious*	flippant*	giddy*	humorous	insolent*
ironic*	irreverent*	joking	malicious*	mock-heroic*
mocking	mock-serious*	patronizing*	pompous*	quizzical*
ribald*	ridiculing	sarcastic	sardonic*	satiric*
scornful*	sharp	silly	taunting	teasing
whimsical*	wry*	belittling	haughty*	insulting
playful	hilarious	uproarious		

**TONE (NEGATIVE)****General**

accusing	aggravated*	agitated*	angry	arrogant
artificial	audacious*	belligerent*	bitter	brash*
childish	choleric*	coarse*	cold	condemnatory
condescending	contradictory	critical	desperate	disappointed
disgruntled*	disgusted	disinterested	passive	furious
harsh	hateful	hurtful	indignant*	inflammatory*
insulting	irritated	manipulative*	obnoxious*	quarrelsome
shameful	superficial	surly*	testy*	
threatening	uninterested			

**Sadness**

despairing	despondent*	foreboding*	gloomy	bleak
melancholy*	maudlin*	regretful	tragic	

**Pain**

annoyed	biter	bored	crushed	disappointed
disgusted	dismal*	fretful*	irritable	miserable
mournful	pathetic	plaintive*	querulous*	sore
sorrowful	sour	sulky	sullen”	troubled
uneasy*	vexed*	worried		

**Unfriendliness**

accusing	belittling	boorish*	cutting	derisive*
disparaging*	impudent*	pitiless	reproving*	scolding
severe	spiteful	suspicious	unsociable	reproachful*

**Anger**

belligerent*	furious	livid*	wrathful*	savage
indignant*	enraged			

**Passion**

fierce	frantic*	greedy	voracious*	hysterical
insane	impetuous*	impulsive*	jealous	nervous
reckless	wild			

**Arrogance/Self-Importance**

boastful	bold	condescending	contemptuous	pretentious*
pompous*	supercilious*	pedantic*	didactic*	bombastic*
self-righteous*	assured	confident	defiant	dignified
domineering	egotistical	imperious*	impressive	smug*
knowing	lofty	peremptory*	profound*	proud
resolute*	sententious*	stiff	saucy*	

**Sorrow/Fear/Worry**

aggravated	anxious	apologetic*	apprehensive*	concerned
confused	depressed	disturbed	embarrassing	fearful

grave*	hollow*	morose*	nervous	numb
ominous*	paranoid*	pessimistic	poignant*	remorseful*
serious	staid*	enigmatic*		

### Submission/Timidity

aghast*	alarmed	ashamed	astonished	astounded
awed	contrite*	self-deprecatory*	docile*	fawning*
groveling*	ingratiating*	meek*	modest*	obedient]
obsequious*	resigned	respectful	reverent*	servile*
shy	submissive*	surprised	sycophantic*	terrified
timid	tremulous*	unpretentious*	willing	

## VERBS

These verbs will be especially effective *when the subject is the author or a character*. They are excellent *replacements for "be" verbs* and instrumental in the formulation of *thesis* and *theme* statements. Careful use of these verbs can result in precise identification of an author's *purpose*. Follow your teacher's directions to categorize the verbs as *transitive*, *intransitive*, positive, negative, or neutral.

### VERBS FOR LITERARY ANALYSIS

accentuates	accepts	achieves	adopts	advocates*
affects	alleviates	allows	alludes*	alters*
analyzes	approaches	argues	ascertains*	assesses*
assumes	attacks	attempts	attributes*	avoids
bases	believes	challenges	changes	characterizes
chooses	chronicles	claims	comments	compares
compels*	completes	concerns	concludes	condescends
conducts	conforms	confronts*	considers	contends*
contests*	contrasts	contributes	conveys	convinces
defines	defies	demonstrates	depicts*	describes
delineates*	despises	details	determines	develops
deviates*	differentiates*	differs	directs	disappoints
discovers	discusses	displays	disputes	disrupts*
distinguishes	distorts*	downplays	dramatizes	elevates
elicits*	emphasizes	encounters	enhances	enriches
enumerates*	envisions	evokes	excludes	expands
experiences	explains	expresses	extends	extrapolates*
fantasizes	focuses	forces	foreshadows	functions
generalizes*	guides	heightens	highlights	hints
holds	honors	identifies	illustrates	illuminates
imagines	impels*	implies*	includes	indicates
infers*	inspires	intends	interprets	interrupts
inundates*	justifies	juxtaposes*	lambasts"	laments*
lampoons*	lists	maintains	makes	manages
manipulates	minimizes	moralizes*	muses*	notes
observes	opposes	organizes	overstates	outlines
patronizes*	performs	permits	personifies*	persuades
ponders*	portrays	postulates*	prepares	presents
presumes	produces	projects	promotes	proposes
provides	qualifies*	questions	rationalizes	reasons
recalls	recites	recollects	records	recounts
reflects	refers	regards	regrets	rejects
represents	results	reveals	ridicules	satirizes*
seems	sees	selects	specifies	speculates*
states	strives*	suggests	summarizes	supplies
supports	suppresses*	symbolizes	sympathizes	traces
understands	vacillates*	values	verifies*	

## ***VERBS TO USE INSTEAD OF EXEMPLIFIES***

appears	asserts	attests to	certifies	confirms
connotes*	corroborates*	defines	demonstrates	denotes*
depicts	discloses*	elucidates*	endorses*	establishes
evinces*	exhibits	expounds*	exposes	intimates*
manifests*	points to	proves	ratifies*	relates
shows	substantiates*	suggests	typifies*	upholds
validates*				

## **ADJECTIVES FOR USE IN LITERARY/RHETORICAL DISCUSSION**

### ***DESCRIBING THE AUTHOR***

cultured	intellectual	erudite*	well-read	sagacious*
sensible	rational	philosophic*	analytical	imaginative
perceptive	visionary*	prophetic*	optimistic	broad-minded*
idealistic*	spiritual	orthodox*	unorthodox*	sympathetic
sophisticated*	original	whimsical*	humorous	conservative*
liberal*	progressive*	radical*	reactionary*	unprejudiced
realistic*	romantic*	shallow	superficial	bigoted
opinionated*	intolerant	hypocritical*	fanatical*	provincial*
narrow-minded*	sentimental	skeptical*	cynical*	

### ***DESCRIBING STYLE/CONTENT***

lucid*	graphic*	intelligible*	explicit*	precise
exact	concise*	succinct*	condensed*	pithy*
piquant*	aphoristic*	sylogistic*	allusive*	metaphorical
poetic	prosaic*	plain	simple	homespun*
pure	vigorous*	forceful	eloquent*	sonorous*
fluent	glib*	natural	restrained*	smooth
polished*	classical	artistic	bombastic*	extravagant
rhetorical*	turgid*	pompous*	grandiose*	obscure*
vague	diffuse*	verbose*	pedantic*	ponderous*
ungraceful	harsh	abrupt*	labored*	awkward
unpolished	crude*	vulgar*	formal	artificial
utilitarian*	humanistic*	pragmatic*	naturalistic*	impressionistic*
subjective*	melodramatic*	fanciful*	authentic*	plausible*
credible*	recondite*	controversial	mystical*	improbable*
absurd	trivial	commonplace	heretical*	

### ***DESCRIBING DICTION***

high or formal	low or informal	neutral	precise	exact
concrete	abstract*	plain	simple	homespun
esoteric*	learned	cultured	literal*	figurative*
connotative*	symbolic	picturesque*	sensuous*	literary
provincial*	colloquial*	slang*	idiomatic*	neologistic*
inexact	euphemistic*	trite*	obscure*	pedantic*
bombastic*	grotesque	vulgar*	jargon*	emotional
obtuse*	moralistic*	ordinary	scholarly	insipid*
proper	pretentious*	old-fashioned	vivid	

### ***DESCRIBING SYNTAX***

loose*	periodic*	balanced*	interrupted	simple*
compound*	complex*	compound-complex*	declarative*	interrogative*
imperative*	exclamatory*	telegraphic*	antithetic*	inverted*
euphonic*	rhythmical	epigrammatic*	emphatic	incoherent
rambling	tortuous	jerky	cacophonous*	monotonous
spare	austere*	unadorned*	jumbled	chaotic
obfuscating*	journalistic*	terse*	laconic*	mellifluous*

musical	lilting*	lyrical*	elegant	solid
thudding	dry	ornate*	elaborate	flowery
erudite*	grating*	staccato*	abrupt*	sprawling

### **DESCRIBING ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE/POINT OF VIEW**

spatial*	chronological	flashback	flash forward*	in media res*
step-by-step	objective*	subjective*	nostalgic*	reminiscent
contemplative*	reflective*	clinical*	impersonal*	dramatic*
omniscient*	limited*			

### **DESCRIBING IMAGERY** (Substitute these precise adjectives for less precise ones such as *vivid*, *colorful*, and *powerful*.)

bucolic*	pastoral*	gustatory*	olfactory*	tactile*
kinetic*	kinesthetic*	sensual*	sacred	sexual
auditory*	religious	animal	war/military	chaotic
of death, decay, decomposition				

### **DESCRIBING CHARACTERS** (Great substitutions for *pretty* and *ugly*!)

#### **Physical Qualities**

manly	virile*	robust*	hardy*	sturdy
strapping*	stalwart*	muscular	brawny*	lovely
fair	comely*	handsome	dainty	delicate
graceful	elegant	shapely	attractive	winsome*
ravishing*	dapper*	immaculate	adroit*	dexterous*
adept*	skillful	agile*	nimble*	active
lively	spirited*	vivacious*	weak	feeble*
sickly	frail	decrepit*	emaciated*	cadaverous*
effeminate*	unwomanly	hideous	homely*	course*
unkempt*	slovenly*	awkward	clumsy	ungainly*
graceless	bizarre*	grotesque	incongruous*	ghastly
repellent*	repugnant*	repulsive	odious*	invidious*
loathsome*				

#### **Mental Qualities** (Great substitutions for *smart* and *stupid*! Which comments would you like to see on your papers?)

educated	erudite*	scholarly	wise	astute*
intellectual	precocious*	capable	competent	gifted
apt*	rational	reasonable	sensible	shrewd*
prudent*	observant	clever	ingenious*	inventive
subtle*	cunning*	crafty*	wily*	unintelligent
unschooled*	unlettered*	ignorant	illiterate*	inane*
irrational	puerile*	foolish	fatuous*	vacuous*
simple	thick-skulled*	idiotic	imbecilic*	witless*
deranged*	demented*	articulate*	eloquent*	

#### **Moral Qualities** (Great substitutions for *good* and *bad*!)

idealistic*	innocent	virtuous*	faultless	righteous*
guileless*	upright*	exemplary	chaste*	pure
undefiled*	temperate*	abstentious*	austere*	ascetic*
puritanical*	truthful	honorable	trustworthy	straightforward*
decent	respectable	wicked	corrupt*	degenerate*
notorious*	vicious	incorrigible*	dissembling*	infamous*
immoral*	unprincipled*	reprobate*	depraved*	indecent*
ribald*	vulgar*	intemperate*	sensual*	dissolute*
deceitful	dishonest	unscrupulous*	dishonorable*	base*
vile*	foul*	recalcitrant*	philandering*	opportunistic*

**Spiritual Qualities** (More great substitutions for *good* and *bad*!)

religious	reverent	pious*	devout*	faithful
regenerate*	holy	saintly	angelic	skeptical*
agnostic*	atheistic*	irreligious*	impious*	irreverent*
profane*	sacrilegious*	materialistic	carnal*	godless
diabolic*	fiendlike*	blasphemous*	unregenerate*	altruistic*
charitable				

**Social Qualities** (Terrific substitutions for *nice* and *mean*!)

civil*	amicable*	contentious*	unpolished*	sullen*
tactful*	courteous	cooperative	genial*	affable*
hospitable*	gracious*	amiable*	cordial*	congenial*
convivial*	jovial*	jolly	urbane*	suave*
anti-social*	acrimonious*	quarrelsome	antagonistic*	misanthropic*
discourteous	impudent*	impolite	insolent*	ill-bred
ill-mannered	unrefined	rustic*	provincial*	boorish*
brusque*	churlish*	fawning*	obsequious*	sniveling*
grumpy	fractious*	crusty*	peevish*	petulant*
waspish*	taciturn*	reticent*	gregarious*	garrulous*

**NOUNS FOR USE IN LITERARY/RHETORICAL DISCUSSION****ANALYZING CHARACTERS**

foil*	nemesis*	adversary*	protagonist*	antagonist*
confidante*	doppelganger*	narrator (unknown, reliable, naïve)		

**ANALYZING STRUCTURE/ORGANIZATION/POINT OF VIEW**

foreshadowing	epiphany*	analogy*	extended metaphor*	shifts
parallel structure	comparison/contrast	transition	sequence	definition
juxtaposition*	anecdote*	frame story*	arrangement	classification
categorization	placement	person (first, second, third)*		
perspective (chronological, geographic, emotional, political)*				

**ANALYZING SYNTAX**

repetition	parallelism	anaphora*	asyndeton*	polysyndeton*
subject*	predicate*	object*	direct object*	indirect object*
phrase*	clause*	infinitive*	participle*	gerund*
modifier*	dependent clause*	independent clause*	subordinate clause*	preposition*
conjunction*	interjection*	deliberate fragment*	appositive*	emphatic
appositive*	semicolon*	colon*	rhetorical question*	noun*
comma	pronoun*	proper noun*	common noun*	collective noun*
abstract noun*	concrete noun*	dialogue*	apostrophe*	chiasmus*
parenthetical expression	footnote	capitalization for effect	inversion*	antecedent*
hyphen*	dash*	active voice*	passive voice*	tense
catalogue*	compound nouns/adjectives			

**IDENTIFYING GENRE/PURPOSE**

novel	novella*	autobiography*	memoir*	biography
letter	sermon	speech	treatise*	abstract*
précis*	synopsis	critique*	personal narrative	journey
travelogue	essay*	diatribe*	polemical*	commentary*
farce*	conceit*	editorial*	tirade*	review
assessment	eulogy*	elegy*	parody*	allegory*
apology	soliloquy*	monologue*	portrayal	archetype*
fable*	argument	verse		

## **IDENTIFYING SOUND DEVICES**

alliteration*	assonance*	consonance*	repetition*	rhyme*
end rhyme*	feminine rhyme*	masculine rhyme*	meter*	slant rhyme*
incremental rhyme*				

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## **THE LANGUAGE OF ARGUMENT**

### **VERBS**

attack	charge	claim	propose	defend
challenge	qualify	counter	repudiate*	allege*
validate	confirm	affirm*	argue	assume
answer	agree/disagree	verify	resolve	concede*
grant*	generalize	specify	debate	dispute
assert				

### **NOUNS**

warrant	validity	plausibility*	practicality	proposal
solution	resolution	bias	credibility	accountability
vested interest	conflict of interests	enthymeme*	pathos*	ethos*
logos*	counterargument	premise*	syllogism*	deduction*
induction*	fallacy*	<i>ad hominem</i>	exigence*	speaker
audience	purpose	message	precedent*	testimonial*
rebuttal*	antithesis*	<i>non sequitur*</i>	circular reasoning*	bandwagon*
refutation	slippery slope*	anecdote*	advocacy*	rhetoric*
invective*	proponent*	assertion	adherent *	red herring*
qualifier*	begging the question*	justification	cause/effect	

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## **THEME VOCABULARY**

Brendan Kenny's List of Abstract Ideas for Forming Theme Statements:

alienation	ambition	appearance v. reality	betrayal	bureaucracy
chance/fate/luck	cruelty/violence	loyalty/disloyalty	journey (literal or psychological)	instinct
despair/discontent*/disillusionment*		domination/suppression	heart v. reason	identity
heaven/paradise/Utopia*	home	illusion*/innocence	initiation*	music/dance
courage/cowardice	loneliness/solitude*	defeat/failure	memory/the past	women/feminism
social status (class*)	the supernatural	time/eternity	war	mob psychology
children	law/justice	custom/tradition	materialism	guilt
dreams/fantasies	duty	exile*	education	patriotism
persistence*/perseverance*		faith/loss of faith	family/parenthood	poverty
game/contests/sports	escape	prejudice	ritual/ceremony	greed
free will/will power	prophecy	falsity/pretence	repentance*	
revenge/retribution*	scapegoat/victim			

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# Schemes

## I. Balance

### A. *Parallelism*

1. words
2. phrases
3. clauses

### B. *Antithesis*

1. words
2. phrases
3. clauses

### C. *Antimetabole*

## II. Interruption

### A. *Paranthesis*

1. dashes
2. question
3. exclamation

### B. *Appositive*

## III. Omission

### A. *Ellipsis*

### B. *Asyndeton*

## IV. Repetition

### A. *Alliteration*

### B. *Assonance*

### C. *Epistrophe*

### D. *Anadiplosis*

### E. *Climax*



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# Tropes

## I. Comparisons

A. *metaphor*

B. *simile*

C. *synecdoche*

D. *metonymy*

E. *personification*

F. *periphrasis*

## II. Word Play

A. *pun*

B. *anthimeria*

C. *onomatopoeia*

## III. Over/Understatement

A. *hyperbole*

B. *litotes*

## IV. Management of Meaning

A. *irony*

B. *oxymoron*

C. *paradox*

D. *rhetorical question*

## TRANSITION WORDS

*Transitions are words or phrases that connect an author's thoughts, thereby making a composition coherent. They come in what seems like an infinite number of varieties, yet transitional strategies do fall into categories. This list of transition words and phrases is divided according to function.*

### **Addition:**

additionally	in addition	after all	also
and	another	as well (as)	besides
for one thing	further	furthermore	including
likewise	let alone	moreover	not to mention
similarly	specifically	too	ultimately
along with	in the first place	equally important	to tell you the truth
above and beyond			

### **Reference:**

as for	concerning	considering	in a like manner
such as	the fact that	with regards to	regarding
on the same subject of		by the same token	

### **Clarification, Illustration:**

as I have said	as an illustration	after all	by comparison
incidentally	in general	for example	for instance
to illustrate	specifically	such as	the fact that
in other words	to put it another way		with regards to

### **Emphasis:**

above all	actually	again	in fact
besides	certainly	especially	indeed
particular	naturally	let alone	much less
of course	surely	truly	to emphasize
as a matter of fact	for this reason in	more importantly	to repeat

### **Contrast:**

although	though	but	conversely
however	in spite of	instead	in contrast
not only	notwithstanding	nevertheless	nonetheless
otherwise	still	whereas	(and) yet
despite	on the contrary	on the other hand	to say nothing

### **Concession:**

admittedly	all the same	at least	either way
granted	in any case	in any event	regardless
be that as it may	whatever happens		

**Cause or Reason:**

because	being that	due to ___	given that
inasmuch as	in view of ___	seeing that	since
owing to the fact	for the reason that		

**Effect or Result:**

accordingly	and that's why	as a result	consequently
hence	so	therefore	thus
as a consequence	because of this		

**Purpose:**

in order to	in hope that	for this purpose	for that reason
so	so that	to this end	with this in mind

**Condition, Consequence:**

if so	if not	in that case	lest
once	otherwise	whether or not	whether
that being the case		under the circumstances	

**Time and Sequence:**

about	after a few days	afterward	at length
as soon as	before	during	eventually
finally	later	lastly	immediately
in the past	meanwhile	next	since
still	subsequently	then	thereafter
until	when	whenever	while
at the same time	first (second...)	in the meantime	soon
to begin with	yesterday		

**Digress and Resume:**

by the way	incidentally	before I forget	by and by
anyhow	anyway	at any rate	in any case
to change the subject		to get back to the point	

**Summarize:**

all in all	altogether	as a result	as has been said
in simpler terms	in brief	in conclusion	in summary
in other words	on the whole	to summarize	to sum it up
as we have seen	to put it differently	to make a long story short	

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## How to Connect Rhetorical Choices to Meaning

### Diction

1. Identify the grammatical unit (phrase, noun, verb, adjective, adverb, etc.) and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Connect the diction to the meaning of *this* text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The phrase\* \_\_\_\_\_ used to describe/identify

\_\_\_\_\_ conveys \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\* or the noun, verb, adjective, adverb \_\_\_\_\_

4. Example:

The phrase, “a thin beard of ivy,” used to describe Gatsby’s mansion conveys a sense of

\_\_\_\_\_.

### Syntax

1. Identify the syntactical choice the author has made and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Connect the syntax to the meaning of *this* text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The \_\_\_\_\_ functions to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Example:

Gatsby’s interrupted sentences dramatize his nervousness and hesitation as he discusses his upcoming meeting with Daisy at Nick’s bungalow. Gatsby says “Why, I thought – why, look here, old sport, you don’t make very much money, do you?”

### **Imagery**

1. Identify the image and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Connect the image to the meaning of *this* text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The image of \_\_\_\_\_ depicts a (picture, sense, state, etc.) of \_\_\_\_\_ because the reader (sees, envisions, realizes) that \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Example:

The image (40) of an “argument . . . pull[ing]” Nick back to the party “as if with ropes” conveys his helpless struggle to get away from the gathering in Tom and Myrtle’s apartment at the same time that it dramatizes his fascination with the events that are occurring.

### **Metaphor**

1. Identify the metaphor and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Connect the metaphor to the meaning of *this* text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The subject of \_\_\_\_\_ is compared to \_\_\_\_\_.

This is fitting because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

share these characteristics: (a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and (b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Example:

In his “I Have A Dream” speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. compares the condition of poverty to a “lonely island.” This is a fitting comparison because poverty and a lonely island share these characteristics: (a) isolation and alienation from the “vast ocean of material prosperity” which surrounds them and (b) both are small, singled out, vulnerable, and surrounded by something they don’t possess.

### **Symbol**

1. Identify both the concrete and abstract meanings of the symbol and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Connect the symbol to specific characters in this text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The \_\_\_\_\_ symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_  
concrete abstract  
for \_\_\_\_\_ because it represents \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Example:

The pearls Daisy Buchanan rescues from the trash and subsequently wears “around her neck” symbolize her ultimate choice of money over love because they represent Tom’s vast wealth (they were “valued at three hundred and fifty thousand dollars”) in contrast to Gatsby’s avowal of love, symbolized by the letter she “wouldn’t let go of.”

### **Detail**

1. Identify the detail and provide the context in which it appears in the text.
2. Describe the function of the inclusion of that detail in *this* text. Avoid generic commentary. Provide an original insight. Pay attention to *your own diction*. It enhances your analysis.
3. Model:

The detail of \_\_\_\_\_  
conveys \_\_\_\_\_. The  
author wants the reader to see \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Example:

The detail of the string of polo ponies Tom Buchanan brought east with him from Chicago conveys his vast wealth and hedonism. Fitzgerald wants the reader to see Tom as spoiled and self-indulgent.