ETS 4U1 Mrs.Tate

**Symbolism in *The Great Gatsby***

Symbols are persons, places, or things in a narrative that have significance beyond a literal understanding. The craft of storytelling depends on symbols to present ideas and point toward new meanings. Most frequently, a specific object will be used to refer to (or symbolize) a more abstract concept. The repeated appearance of an object suggests a non-literal, or figurative, meaning attached to the object. Symbols are often found in the book’s title, at the beginning and end of the story, within a profound action, or in the name or personality of a character. The life of a novel is perpetuated by generations of readers interpreting and reinterpreting the main symbols. By identifying and understanding symbols, readers can reveal new interpretations of the novel.

In a small group you are going to be assigned one of the symbols below to complete a more thorough analysis.

You will want to look at this object/symbol/motif in more than one way and from more than one angle. As noted above, think about the deeper meaning.

Then, find quotations from throughout the novel which support your claims on what you believe the symbol represents in the book. You should include a minimum of  Ideally, your Imagery Chart can assist with this task.

1. **The green light**
2. **Gatsby’s car (the colour yellow)**
3. **Gatsby’s mansion (his pool)**
4. **Dr. Eckleburg**
5. **Gatsby’s parties / Alcohol**

As with the character activity last week, you will be putting your information onto chart paper and presenting to the rest of the class in an informal presentation.

This activity will help your understanding of the novel, and continue to be discussed when we complete a film comparison/analysis of the two film versions next week.