

Tutorial – Comparing texts

The learning intention:

Learn how to draw connections, contrasts and parallels between texts.

(This area of study focuses on the way two or more texts relate to each other. Students make comparisons between the ways in which different texts are constructed. Students also show how style, form, voice, structure and central concerns of the texts affect the reader's interpretation. Students consider the assumptions made in texts, and their social and cultural values.)

Success Criteria:

You will write a compare/contrast essay on Fitzgerald's 1925 novel & Luhrman's 2013 film, *The Great Gatsby*.

(On completion of this unit the student should be able to produce a comparative piece of interpretative writing with a particular focus; for example, ideas and concerns, form of the text, author, time in history, social or cultural context.)

What you will need to know to do the best job on this:

- comment on the ways texts represent personal, social or cultural concerns;
- explore and comment on the literary features particular to texts;
- make appropriate reference to textual detail to support a comparative interpretation.

Things you can compare & contrast:

Narrative voice:

The "voice" that speaks or tells a [story](#). Some [narratives](#) are written in a [first-person](#) point of view, where the narrator's voice is that of the [protagonist's](#), and some are written in [third person](#).

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Narrative structure:

See both video tutorials on this topic to understand more about the elements of narrative structure.

Narrative style/presentation:

The distinguishing way writers employ [language](#) and their words choice to accomplish certain effects. A significant ingredient of interpreting and understanding [fiction](#) is paying attention to the way the [author](#) uses words. [Syntax](#), [structure](#) and [narrative technique](#) are also important.

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Narrative, literary & cinematic techniques/features:

Think about metaphor, imagery, repetition, motif, foreshadowing, dramatic irony and the other techniques we know about. It is important for this unit to distinguish between literary techniques in the novel and cinematic techniques in the film. You will also need to consider those that achieve similar effects on the audience and those that have a different effect.

Social & cultural values:

How a text reflects on or comments on the values of the society or culture that it is situated in.

Historical context:

Where is the text situated historically? Think in terms of when it was written and where in history the narrative itself is set.

Author:

Who is the author? How is their perspective framed? What does their context and body of work tell us about them?

Central concerns (authorial contention):

What is the message that the story is trying to put across? What are the themes/ideas/concerns that are central to the plot of this narrative?