

"working together" or "standing on your own two feet" - how do either or both of these ways of behaving reflect the cultural contexts of the two works you have studied?
 Time of day

Date No.

2) In literature, writers often alienate certain characters or make them stand on their ^{own} two feet, to better communicate and showcase the difference cultural context of a particular time period. However other writers may often times use ~~other character~~ a group of characters who work together to reflect the cultural context. In the works such as "The Great Gatsby" 1925 ~~by~~ by F. Scott Fitzgerald and ~~Albert Camus~~ The Outsider by Albert Camus, 1942, the respective writers ~~use each~~ make their characters behave in a certain way so as to critique the existing cultural norms and give a greater insight into them.

by

In the case of The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald, the central character Jay Gatsby is both ~~constructed as~~ alienated and helped by society. ~~How~~ Firstly Jay Gatsby works with others such as Meyer Wolfsheim to achieve wealth. The 1920s ~~was a period of great~~ of America was a period of celebration after a devastating war. It was a period of time characterized by prosperity and optimism. At the start of the 1920s the American government put in place the prohibition act which banned the ~~rate of~~ production and ~~sa~~ of alcohol ~~at~~; however, not the consumption. The act backfired, and alcohol became more available and cheaper. This gave rise to bootleggers such as Gatsby and Wolfsheim, a notorious character ^{in the underworld} who apparently fixed the "1919 world series game". ~~To achieve~~ In order to achieve his American Dream which involved Daisy's love and acceptance into the "old rich" of America Gatsby worked with Meyer ~~to~~ by bootlegging to achieve wealth which brought him one step closer to achieving his dream.

gain his love

~~Jay Gatsby~~ In order to ~~achieve his~~ ^{gain his love} from Daisy back, Gatsby worked with Nick. Nick saw Gatsby as having "an extraordinary gift for hope" and decided to help Gatsby rekindle his love with Daisy by arranging for the two to meet at his house for tea.

However ~~ultimate~~ in order to achieve his full American dream Gatsby needed to be accepted by the "old rich", such as the Buchanans who resided in the East Egg. However due to the social disparity that existed during the 1920's between the old rich and the nouveau rich,

eg Gatsby, Gatsby American Dream was unattainable.

Gatsby was alienated from the old rich ~~firstly~~ through ~~setting~~. The old rich resided in "East Egg", and their houses were coloured in white, "white palaces", "Bright coloured" windows "frosted wedding cake" ceilings. In ~~the~~ The Great Gatsby, the colour which white is exclusively used to signal eternal affluence. Thus the ~~setting and imagery~~ ~~related~~ to the "old rich" signaled and evolved manner of wealth.

Jay Gatsby on the other hand surrounded himself with ostentatious displays of wealth. His house was described as ~~a some~~ "a factual imitation of some hotel de ville in Normandy". The ~~dictio~~ word used in this quote, "factual imitation", shows how Gatsby was trying to copy the houses ~~and~~ in East Egg and the fact that he aspired to be like them. However ~~his~~ attempts were unsuccessful as ~~his~~ ~~the~~ West Egg was deemed ~~to~~ the "unfashionable of the two" and the two eggs were "dissimilar in every particular except shape and size."

Furthermore the old-rich looked down ~~upon~~ the nouveau rich such as Gatsby, Tom commented that "many of these ~~bootleg~~ new ~~rich~~ are just bootleggers you know". Furthermore at Gatsby's parties the aristocrats distanced themselves by sitting on the other other side of the garden".

As such by making Jay Gatsby stand on his ~~own~~ feet ultimately in his quest for his American Dream, and his inability to achieve it which led to his death. Fitzgerald critiques ~~to~~ the cultural context of the 1920s in America. He noticed that as the rich became richer and society more affluent, the American Dream became unattainable. Seen from the fact that Gatsby could not enter to the "club of success", as it had become so exclusively that it was a birth right, and only those who were born into it could achieve the American dream, such as Tom Buchanan. Thus the unattainable nature

of the American, made ~~it~~ it in its very essence corrupt.

own

Another character which was made to stand on his own two feet and was alienated is Nick Carraway. The purpose of alienating Nick was to provide a ^{contrast} ~~contrast~~ ^{of} between the lack of moral values of the American upper class during the 1920s. Although Nick came from a "prominent family in the mid-west" and went to Yale with Tom, he is not part of the ^{exclusive club} ~~exclusive club~~ ^{due to his moral values} ~~He is only part of them due to his relationship with Daisy but he is not as seen from the~~ ^{the mid-west has left in him} ~~to his relationship with Daisy but he is not as seen from the~~ ^{The quote} "within and without simultaneously enchanted by the variety of life!" This quote is an important paradox as it is not only a reflection of Nick's feelings at the party but also a reflection of where he stands among the Elite of East Egg. He is only part of them due to his relationship with Daisy, however he is ~~not~~ ^{not} a ~~he~~ because he feels a "moral imperative" to "reserve his judgements" and not to stoop to ^{their} level. Furthermore he refers to them as a "rotten crowd". Thus by ~~placing~~ ^{alienating} Nick who had strong morals due to his mid-western from the American upperclass, Fitzgerald criticizes the shallowness of the American upper-class.

In the novel ~~the~~ The Outsider, ~~by~~ ^{philosophical} ~~At~~ Albert Camus alienates his main character Mersault so as to reflect his view about the ~~the~~ absurd which arose from ~~his~~ cultural context. Camus lived in the ~~the~~ ¹⁹ ~~19~~ period of war, Spanish civil war and world war I, he was disgusted by the deaths of soldiers who fought for their countries and their deaths as being meaningless. He also ~~had to~~ could not pursue his further studies, as he contracted tuberculosis at the age of 17, which was an incurable disease at that time, as such Camus saw life as being meaningless. According to his ² ~~theory~~ of the Absurd, Camus ~~wrote~~ ^{was} believed that life had no redeeming meaning or purpose and thus ~~was~~ was meaningless. He also criticized society's ~~for wanting~~ desire for purpose in a cold indifferent world.

Camus reflected his theory of the Absurd in his character Mersault. He alienated Mersault to show the cultural context of that time, to show that life had no meaning. As such it did not matter to Mersault

whether his "mother died today or yesterday", as she would eventually die and the world would go on naturally. Furthermore his lack of purpose is seen when he ~~was given~~ turned down a job offer in Paris as he felt that "one life was as good as another" and he felt no "reason to change his life". Thus lack of purpose and desire for life made him feel that his actions had no consequences such as "smothering" at his mother's funeral, "not crying" at his mother's funeral and even the killing of the Arab. Thus the lack of purpose in the character of Mersault showcased the cultural context of that time as due to war, people such as Camus saw life as being meaningless.

~~Further~~ Mersault's rejection of Christianity ^{alienated him} ~~also showed~~ from society and in this way reflected the cultural context ~~which~~ of the society in which Camus lived in which ~~was~~ majority were Christian. ~~By~~ Camus believed that life had no purpose or meaning however Christianity was based on the purpose God had set for the people of the world, it ~~was~~ was based on rational order. Thus by rejecting Christianity, Mersault rejects all systems that seek to define a rational order within human existence. This defiance causes Mersault to be branded a threat from society. This reflecting that majority of society believed in Christianity.

By ~~alienating~~ ^{racist} the Arabs, Camus reflects the ~~culture~~ culture that existed in French Algeria. The mention of Arab people in The Outsider is significant as it is a direct reference to the French-Algerian conflict which formed the cultural, social and historical context of Camus' time. The Arabs in the novel are alienated as they are merely described as "Arabs" and not given a name or identity. Their acts show themselves as belonging to a lower rung of society. As seen in the scene where Marie visits Camus in jail, while everyone else were speaking at the top of their voices, the Arabs were ~~speaking with~~ "crouched down" and "speaking with hushed voices." ~~Thus the alien~~ ^{most} This ~~at~~ description showcased the ^{most} view the pied-noir had of the Arabs, as they saw themselves as being better than them.

Thus in conclusion both novels alternate central ~~ea~~ characters or a group of characters to critique the cultural context of their times. However in ~~the Great Gatsby~~, Jay Gatsby works with others such as Nick and Meyer, to showcase other aspects such as ~~the~~ bootlegging which was part of the cultural context.