

Q3. What impact does setting have on your understanding of the central ideas or themes presented in the two works studied?

Setting is a powerful tool used by authors, to often to set a novel in context. Detailed and vivid descriptions of the setting helped in giving readers a perception or impression of the characters that are present in that particular setting. In addition, the details of the setting also assists in the portrayal of characters as well as the backgrounds that they hail from. This idea is particularly prominent in two works, The Great Gatsby (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald as well as in The Outsider (1948) by Albert Camus.

~~Writing~~

In The Great Gatsby (1925), F. Scott Fitzgerald adopted the use of explicit visual descriptions of the setting to explain some of the central ideas that were highlighted in the novel. For instance, he described the ~~Valley of Ashes~~ valley of ashes as "a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens." The use of alliteration in the aforementioned quote when Fitzgerald mentions "grotesque gardens" places a great deal of emphasis on the dire and dismal state of the valley of ashes. The diction used by Fitzgerald is also ~~quite~~ significant since the word "grotesque" serves to imply that the valley of ashes is an "eyesore". Essentially, the portrayal of the valley of ashes as an extremely bleak place then helps to illustrate one of the key ~~elements~~ ^{themes} of this novel which is the poverty that parts of the American population were facing. Indeed, it is of no surprise to the readers when we are informed of how a "blond, spiritless" George Wilson is an inhabitant of the valley of ashes. In fact, Fitzgerald even states that the interior of his house which "was unprosperous and bare" almost seems to parallel the bleak outlook of the valley of ashes. Ultimately, as readers, we are able to witness how setting is used as a powerful tool by Fitzgerald to communicate to the readers the bleak and astonishing living conditions that the poor in society had to endure.

↓ creates what further effect?

Moreover, the setting of the valley of ashes, a place in which "spawns of bleak dust drift endlessly on", also ~~and~~ serves to be the rationale as to why Myrtle Wilson to justify the action of Myrtle Wilson who had an extramarital affair with Tom Buchanan, who hailed from the ~~old~~ ^{rich}. The ~~dismal~~ ^{portrayal and} appearance of the valley of ashes ^{by Fitzgerald} allowed the readers to ~~sympathize with~~ ^{comprehend the actions of} Myrtle Wilson, who used "the immediately perceptible vitality about her" to so as to seduce Tom Buchanan. The readers are made aware of Myrtle Wilson's resentment towards the fact that she had to live in such dismal conditions.

and her hatred of being trapped in the vicious circle of poverty is further enhanced by the bleak setting that is used by Fitzgerald. Essentially, the ^{dull and abnormal} setting of the "gray land" encapsulates the idea of Myrtle Wilson despising the ~~idea~~ fact that she has to be part of this ~~unending~~ ^{part} struggle to escape poverty. This in turn, portrays the central idea of how those who were ~~part of~~ ^{part} the lower rungs of the social ladder struggled to make their way up in pursuit of the American Dream.

→ when the
suggested for
her death

Furthermore, F. Scott Fitzgerald also uses specific details when describing the East Egg and the West Egg, which were inhabited by the old rich and the new rich. The massive difference seen in the descriptions of these two places and the valley of ashes illustrates the vast disparity between those who were able to achieve the American Dream and those who were unable to. For example, Fitzgerald stated that Gatsby's mansion in the West Egg "was a factual imitation of some Hôtel de Ville in Normandy". ^{and} In addition, Fitzgerald even went to great lengths to describe how "fashionable" the East Egg was when he stated that the "white palaces" of the East Egg that "glittered along the water". ^{extensive} The use of visual imagery as well as the use of the narrative voice of Nick Carraway exaggerates the beauty of the West ^{Eggs} and the East Egg, which is presented in exalted terms. Moreover, the luxury and comfort which is associated with this setting is described by a narrator, who himself is from a prominent background, helps to exude the majestic beauty of this setting. Ultimately, Fitzgerald's description of the West Egg and the East Egg portrays the central idea of how those who were higher rungs of the social ladder, be it due to family ~~backgrounds~~ ^{wealth} familial ties or ~~endless~~ ^{hard} sheer hardwork, were able to reap the rewards of achieving the American Dream. In addition, the materialistic pleasure which can be associated with the luxurious setting helps to convey to the reader that the American population was intent on ~~achieving~~ ^{putting} ~~themselves~~ ^{on} ~~the~~ ^{achieving} the American Dream so that they could entitle themselves to the such privileges and materialistic pleasures.

What about NY?? Key setting in the novel

Besides The Great Gatsby (1925), one other novel which expounds on ~~the idea of~~ ^{how} setting is used as a potent tool to portray central ideas would be ~~the~~ ^{the} The Outsider (1926) by Albert Camus. In this novel, Albert Camus explores the concept of Nihilism through an absurdist, Meursault who seems to be an ~~see~~ ^{outsider} outsider to a variety of societal norms. The ^{two} ~~three~~ main settings that are used in this novel are the settings of French Algeria ~~the desert~~ and the ~~last~~ ^{last} ~~setting~~ ^{setting} ~~place~~ ^{place}. In addition, the powerful descriptions of these settings by Albert Camus reveal ^{the central idea of how} ~~that~~ Meursault is a person who passively observes everything ~~even~~ ^{from} his own behaviour, like an anthropologist and he records his observations with clinical detachment.

more
read
share
effects
comment
fully



food & H

In the very beginning of this novel, in Chapter 1 of Part 1, the readers are made aware of how Meersault is a person who is very responsive to physical sensations, so much so that the weather "hot weather" was something worthy of description amidst the heart-breaking fact that his mother had passed away. This is further enhanced by the use of the first person narrative voice ~~by the~~ of Meersault who claimed that "the glare of the sky reflecting off the road" was ~~possibly~~ agonizing. The description of the hot weather in French Algeria by Meersault himself helps to illustrate the idea of how ~~as a person~~ Meersault, a ~~picador~~, was unable to ~~acclimate~~ ^{adjust} to the punishing weather conditions that ~~defined~~ ^{described} him. This ~~also sets the~~ ^{description of the setting and how Meersault is unable to acclimate to it} ~~fore~~ ^{tone} for the rest of the novel as readers begin to ~~understand~~ ^{realize} how Meersault is unable to ~~adjust~~ ^{play the game} "play the game" ~~something~~ ^{handwriting} which Camus reiterated in his afterword in 1955.

more details!

Besides that, Albert Camus focuses on the intense heat of French Algeria in other parts of the novel. However, in ~~part~~ Chapter 6 of part 1 of the novel, ~~Camus~~ ^{Meersault} chooses to explicit details and description pertaining to the French Algerian setting. This is evident when he mentions that the "sun was beginning to burn". Meersault's cheeks, ~~and Meersault~~, through his narrative voice, even stated that his "forehead was hurting him ~~the~~ ^{and}" and "all the veins were throbbing at once beneath the skin". The use of body imagery by Camus emphasizes ~~the~~ ^{that} the effect the hot French Algerian setting has on Meersault. These intricate details explain how Meersault is almost overwhelmed by the ~~the~~ intense heat. Eventually, just before the climax of this scene, whereby Meersault ends up killing the Arab, the readers are informed ~~as~~ ^{of} how the "sky seemed to be splitting end to end and raining down sheets of flame". The use of imagery pertaining to heat ~~and then~~ allow the readers to ~~perceive the weather conditions that~~ ^{perceive the weather conditions that} the weather ~~seems to be~~ ^{is} taking on the role of an aggressor as it ~~is~~ ^{is} almost as if it is assaulting and pounding Meersault. Hence, the description of the French Algerian setting serves the purpose of conveying to the readers how Meersault is unable to adjust and acclimate to these harsh weather conditions and as a result, he ends up killing the Arab in an absent-minded state.

Furthermore, Albert Camus ~~is~~ also intelligently describes a particular setting in the eyes of the protagonist, Meersault, in this novel. This is observed in Chapter 3 of Part 2 in this novel. In this particular chapter, Meersault has to face the trial for murdering the Arab. However, even before describing the trial that takes place, Camus showcases to the readers the ~~at~~ ^{an} indifferent attitude of Meersault, who distances himself from his own trial. This is evident through the use of diction when



Mersault mentions that "it would be interesting to watch a trial". The use of the passive word "watch" clearly indicates ~~he~~ does not comprehend the seriousness and tension that is associated with a court setting. In addition, the court, in the eyes of Mersault, was described as a place ~~full of faces~~ "with - 'anonymous passengers on the opposite seat' who 'scrutinizing' Mersault 'to find his peculiarities'". Once again, Mersault does not display any form of remorse or anxiety that a criminal facing trial is expected to ~~display~~ experience. His description of the court setting emphasises that he has no regard for the fact that he ~~has just~~ had murdered a person in cold blood. Ultimately, Camus' portrayal of Mersault as a passive observer who describes the court setting showcases the central idea of how the protagonist, a true absurdist, is an outsider to the society in which he lives in and it is this very nuance that condemns him.

In conclusion, in the both novels, The Great Gatsby (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald and The Outsider (1948) by Albert Camus, readers are able to observe how setting is used as a powerful tool to set a novel in context and give readers a perception of the attributes and traits of the various characters involved. Essentially, setting is primarily used in The Great Gatsby (1925) to communicate to readers the clear division that exist in society as a result of possessing wealth and fortune or the lack of it. Moreover, setting is used in The Outsider (1948) to primarily showcase how the protagonist of the novel feels a sense of alienation as he is unable to assimilate to his setting and as a result, ends up acting on instinct, he is an absent-minded daze.

- A: 5 highly relevant textual references
- B: 4 did not fully explore aspects of obs
- C: 4 stylistic features + effects
- D: 4 grammar
- E: 4 inhabited??

21