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A genre of a literary work often dictates the content that would be present and allow writers to achieve their intended purposes. Both The Great Gatsby (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald and The Outsider (1942) are novels that have stayed through to their respective genres. The Great Gatsby serves as a social commentary on the various societal and social issues that plagued American society in the 1920s following the end of World War I. On the other hand, The Outsider ~~is~~ was primarily a ~~philosophical~~ philosophical text through which Camus aimed to propagate his philosophy of Absurdism during World War II. ~~The~~ This essay seeks to elucidate upon how the two novels aforementioned remained true to their genres and highlighted a plethora of pertinent themes relevant to the context in which the novel was written in such as the theme of social immobility and moral decadence in Gatsby as well as the meaninglessness of life and Absurdism in The Outsider.

Fitzgerald used the context of the novel, which was set in 1920s America to effectively highlight the moral decadence and decay of that time period. It was in the 1920s when the 18th Amendment to the Constitution was ~~prohibited~~ ~~which~~ ratified and this prohibited the sale of alcohol. However, many such as the protagonist "Gatsby" opened up a lot of

"side-street drug-stores" and "sold grain alcohol over the counter". Additionally, Gatsby also had stores in other states such as "Chicago" and "Philadelphia" that were "calling him on the wire". The use of the novel's context effectively creates a backdrop of realism that only emphasised the illegality of Gatsby's ~~extra~~ sources of income. The use of synecdoche "Chicago" and "Philadelphia" to represent his operations in these other American states also serves to highlight the ~~extra~~ immoral activities that had spread throughout America like a plague. Thus, through the use of the novel's context as well as synecdoche, Fitzgerald has ensured that the novel ~~can~~ act as a critique on society, which is true to the novel's genre.

Gatsby also aimed to expose the rampant immorality ~~and decadence~~ that existed due to the social stratification present in American society. Even though Daisy was the one who had run over Myrtle "like a dog", she did not feel compelled to confess to her crime, but instead allowed Gatsby to shoulder the blame instead. It was this unconscionable behaviour on Daisy's part that led Nick the narrator to describe the old rich as a "rotten crowd" who "smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back to their money or their vast carelessness . . . and let other people clean up the mess they made". Fitzgerald's use of the simile to compare Myrtle to a dog along with the specific ~~and~~ choice of the word "creatures" ~~and~~ exemplifies the

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characterisation of ^{Daisy} ~~the~~ and by extension, the old rich, as both careless and callous members of society with absolutely no moral conscience simply because they had the money to protect themselves. Comparing those of the lower social classes to a "dog" and "creatures" also illustrates how they have been dehumanised in the eyes of those belonging to the upper echelons of society and are worth less. Furthermore, Fitzgerald also uses the transferred epithet which is "rotten" from "rotten crowd" to emphasise how rotten and corrupt ~~that~~ the morals of the old rich were because money allowed them to shun all responsibility. Hence, Fitzgerald's use of these literary devices allows readers to better understand the gross extent ~~of the~~ to which social stratification created immorality in 1920s America ~~which~~ and thus the novel manages to remain true to its genre of being a social critique.

Through the vivid diction used to describe the various settings in the novel, Fitzgerald has also managed to highlight the social immobility and futility of the American Dream in Gatsby. When Nick visited the Valley of Ashes, he described it as a "dumping-ground" where "ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens" and was filled with

"ash-grey men". The simile used to compare how ashes propagated like wheat into expansive mounds akin to "ridges and hills" creates a striking visual image of the dilapidated and dirty environment which ~~the~~ members from the lower class of society worked. The "grotesque gardens" also stand in contrast to the "more than forty acres of lawn" that Gatsby had. ~~Thus, even~~ Additionally, ~~as~~ those ~~from the~~ of a lower social status were belittled to the rich such as when Tom threatened to sell his car "somewhere else" after Wilson inquired about its availability. The stark difference ~~in~~ between the Valley of Ashes and the Eggs where the rich lived shows the futility of the American Dream ~~as~~ because hard work and labour would never allow those such as Wilson to ascend the social ladder.

Furthermore, there was also a contrast between West Egg where the new rich such as Gatsby stayed and East Egg where the old rich such as Tom stayed. Gatsby's residence was described ~~as~~ ^{as a} "factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy" compared to Tom's "cheerful red-and-white Georgian colonial mansion". The personification of Tom's house as "cheerful" serves to connote that his house ~~is~~ has character and is authentic in contrast to Gatsby's distasteful and garish imitation of a mansion that was completely lifeless since it was fake. Thus, Fitzgerald has also used setting along with vivid visual imagery ~~to~~ in

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order to showcase that even if one was rich, they would never truly become a member of the old rich that was described as a "distinguished secret society" by Nick. Hence, social mobility and the ideals of the American Dream were simply unrealistic in ~~a period~~ 1920s America and these were issues that Fitzgerald aimed to highlight in his novel that was a social commentary.

The Outsider by Camus served as a philosophical text to highlight the meaninglessness of life and religion and the novel has successfully done this through the interpersonal conflict present between the protagonist Meursault and religious representatives of society, which are the judge and chaplain. Even though Meursault was being persecuted and faced death, he persistently refused to accept any form of religious salvation when the judge waved a "silver crucifix" in front of him "like a madman". The simile used by Camus to liken the judge to a "madman" effectively accentuates the importance of religion in society, Catholicism in particular that was predominant in 1940s French Algeria. The judge was compelled enough by his "firm belief" in religion to provide him meaning in life because if he were to "doubt it", his life

would "no longer have any meaning". Through Meursault's view of the judge as a madman that was waving the crucifix, a symbol of Catholicism, Camus aims to reinforce the idea that society's attempts to impose structures of meaning such as religion was ultimately futile because life itself had no meaning, and this idea is a core facet of his Absurdist philosophy. Meursault also ~~just~~ thinks that the chaplain was living life "as if he were ~~a~~ dead". This simile is once again congruent to Camus' belief that religion ~~only~~ was a delusional tool that allowed people to elude from ~~a~~ accepting the meaninglessness of life. In Camus' own words, he ~~even~~ likened religion to "philosophical suicide" which is why the chaplain was described as living like a dead person. Hence, it is only without religion and through accepting the meaninglessness of life and death for one to live a fulfilling life, much like how Meursault felt ready to "start life all over again". Through the interpersonal conflict between Meursault and the staunch religious followers, the judge and chaplain, Camus effectively ~~creates~~ showcases how religion is futile and one should accept the Absurdist philosophy where life itself ~~was~~ ~~a~~ was meaningless which is the purpose of this philosophical ~~text~~.

Furthermore, Camus aimed to propagate his nihilistic perspective through the characterisation of Meursault as a character who is deeply affected by the physical stimuli surrounding

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him. At the beach where Meursault shot the Arab, Camus describes the impact that the sun has on Meursault in exceeding vivid detail. The ~~was~~ sun was "crashing like cymbals" and Meursault felt as if he was anchored in ocean of molten metal". Additionally, the light from the Arab's knife was "like a long gleaming blade thrust deep into [his] forehead". ~~The pervasive use of similes and metaphors to create the aural imagery of the sun overwhelming his sense of sound of cymbals.~~ The Camus' use of similes to create both visual imagery and tactile imagery of the sun's light and heat inflicting pain on him and the metaphor of the heat as an "ocean of molten metal" reinforces ~~the~~ how affected Meursault is by such physical stimuli. The masterful use of synaesthesia ~~when seen~~ through the simile of the sun "crashing like cymbals" compounds how ~~almost all of Meursault's~~ creates aural imagery to compound how ~~the~~ Meursault's senses are completely overwhelmed. When Meursault's ~~was~~ ~~questioned~~ motivation behind killing the Arab was questioned, he said in a matter-of-fact tone that it was "because of the sun". Thus, to readers, the seeming incongruence between how Meursault ~~is~~ compelled by ~~the~~ the sun's

his torment from the sun to killing the Arab is absolutely absurd and incomprehensible. However, this was ~~Camus~~ Camus' intention as the senselessness of the sun compelling Meursault to kill the Arab served to parallel the senseless carnage that was World War II. ~~It was the~~ The bloodshed brought about by the Holocaust and war was incomprehensible to Camus himself and ~~this~~ this led him to develop the philosophy of Absurdism in Paris during World War II itself. Thus, Camus' vividly detailed and descriptive used to describe how the sun affected the protagonist Meursault and how the sun was ultimately the reason for his actions despite being utterly irreconcilable effectively showcased ~~how Camus~~ the meaninglessness of life itself that is a core principle in Camus' philosophy of Absurdism. Hence, Camus still does manage to true to the genre of the novel, The Outsider which is a philosophical text.

In conclusion, both Fitzgerald and Camus have cogently employed various literary features such as imagery, setting, and context in order to highlight themes such as social immobility and Absurdism in ~~both~~ The Great Gatsby and The Outsider respectively to great effect. ~~For this has allowed the~~ The masterful use of such features and techniques allow both novels to provide deep insight into certain societal issues or philosophical concerns that ~~it~~ are relevant to their respective genres.