

***The Great Gatsby* Book Cover Project**

Francis Cugat originally designed the iconic blue cover for this novel, and it was completed before Fitzgerald finished the manuscript. Interestingly, when the book was first released, the cover was not glorified and appreciated in the way that it is today. Ernest Hemingway wrote in his memoir *A Moveable Feast* that he was ‘embarrassed by the violence, bad taste, and slippery look of it,’ even going so far as to say that ‘it looked like the book jacket for a book of bad science fiction.’

In this way, you can see the significance of a book’s cover in representing the themes and ideas behind the novel as well as its ability to affect the reader’s initial perception of it.

You will be creating your own book cover for *The Great Gatsby*. This assignment will challenge you to demonstrate your knowledge of what symbolism is and how Fitzgerald employs symbolism through his writing. Your book cover should:

- Be designed on a sheet of 8 ½” x 11” paper (try to use heavy paper if possible)
- Include an artistic representation of two to three symbols or symbolic messages that you discovered in your analysis of the text

Feel free to browse through some preexisting book covers for *The Great Gatsby* to get an idea of how others have interpreted Fitzgerald’s work. Use these for inspiration, but make sure that you allow your own creativity to shine in your own work.

Additionally, you will submit a 350-450 word accompanying argument explaining the creative choices that you made in designing your cover. You should describe the symbols/symbolic messages that you have incorporated into your cover and also your interpretation of its meaning using textual, historical, and other forms of evidence.

Make sure that you are able to fully defend the reasoning behind your selection(s).

You will be provided with two class periods to work on this assignment, so work diligently and rely on each other for collaboration of ideas and constructive feedback on your products.