

Structuring Your Writing

Directions: Read the following analytical paragraph and try to label its parts.

Fitzgerald highlights women's disempowerment when entering into their marriage by showing how Daisy expressed clear discontent for her impending wedding, yet gets forced into the marriage anyway. This clear disregard for her wishes is shown when Jordan recounts the past relationship of Daisy and Gatsby. Jordan remembers that thirty minutes before the wedding rehearsal dinner, she saw Daisy "grop[ing] around in a waste-basket . . . and pull[ing] out the string of pearls (Fitzgerald 81), showing Daisy's clear devaluation of the gift that her fiancée gave her before the wedding, and ultimately their relationship – as though it is worthless and should be discarded. Not only do her actions indicate her desire to separate herself from this marriage and lifestyle, but she also verbally expresses her desire to avoid the union by asking Jordan to "give 'em back to whoever they belong to," (81) further disassociating herself with Tom by acting like she doesn't even know who owns the expensive jewelry, as though they are foreign to her. Daisy strengthens her conviction of leaving Tom by repeating "Daisy's change' her mine" (81) – a clear, concise refusal of Tom's proposal. Without taking a moment to pause or wait for a response, Daisy refutes the impending marriage four times through her physical actions and verbal commands. But, after hearing Daisy's distinct refusal to end the relationship, Jordan and the maid invalidate Daisy's feelings by ignoring her claims and forcing her abandon this decision: "We locked the door, and got her in a cold bath" (81), literally trapping Daisy until she is ready to go to the dinner. By hiding her disheveled appearance and trying to clean her up, they prevent others from seeing Daisy's reaction, allowing them to maintain Daisy's social appearance. As they get her ready for the rehearsal dinner, they "gave her spirits of ammonia", as though to rouse her from an unconscious state, as though she had no control and was not acting like herself. Then they take the initiative to finalize her elegant, celebratory façade when they "hooked her back into her dress," securing her into the woman's role. Daisy's clear and vocal desire to end her relationship with Tom fails, because society forces her to stay in this relationship, ultimately maintaining social appearances.