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### Question 3, Symbolism

It is argued in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, that nobody is ever truly satisfied no matter how much money they have. The green light across the bay near Jay Gatsby's house symbolizes his discontentment with his current wealth and status, which goes on to show that his identity is never truly complete.

Each night, Gatsby gazes into the green light. The color green is interpreted as representing money. Gatsby is reminded of the "need" to acquire more wealth. The presence of the color is just as realistic, and therefore represents the thirst to have more. The color is also commonly associated with spring and new life. This solidifies that members not part of the upper class that money will fix all of their problems and therefore give them a "new life". The light's green color symbolizes the ideas of wealth and rebirth for Gatsby.

Distance plays an important role in the symbolism of the light. It's close enough to Gatsby that he can see it, but just out of his reach. Similarly, he has achieved immense success in gaining a fortune. The problem lies in the fact that because he was not born rich, he will never be completely accepted as a member of the upper, more elite, class. To Gatsby, it seems that his problems would be obsolete if he could only be

a “legitimate” member. He’s so close to getting the lifestyle he wants and is only held back by the social barrier. No matter what he does, the upper class utilized the ability to tag him as “unfit” to be welcomed into their society. Equivalently, he can see the light, yet the water keeps him from being able to actually touch it. This distance enable Gatsby to see both without ever fully experiencing them.

On a larger scale, the green light-- as mentioned by Nick Carraway-- represents immigrants coming to America for the first time. Like the light, their hopes and dreams are on the horizon. It is commonly implied that once in America, one’s dreams are feasibly attained. The Great Gatsby argues that sometimes people’s desires are impossible, in the way that Gatsby wasn’t able to ever grasp his desires. This brings into perspective that success doesn’t guarantee happiness.

The use of light in The Great Gatsby is used as a way for Fitzgerald to critique humanity as a whole. The symbolism shows how the lower class aspires to attain wealth that unrealistic because the upper class has the power to refuse or accept anybody