Junior English

Practice Explication

We are going to work through the following passages in three ways—as a whole group, as a small group and individually. You will submit your individual passage at the end of the period for feedback. Carefully read the passage. Look closely at the words Fitzgerald uses. Annotate your passage. Make a note of literary devices that Fitzgerald uses. Which are the strongest or most effective? Are there words that stand out? Why? What do these words convey? Once you have determined the literary devices and key words that Fitzgerald uses, begin to draw some conclusions about these choices. How do these choices help to create meaning in the piece? Then, work to craft a well-developed paragraph or two analyzing these choices. Move through the passage addressing how the sentences build on one another to create meaning and focus on the literary devices as they occur.

**Passage One (whole group)**

“The flowers were unnecessary, for at two-o’clock a greenhouse arrived from Gatsby’s with innumerable receptacles to contain it. An hour later the front door opened nervously, and Gatsby, in a white flannel suit, silver shirt, and gold-colored tie, hurried in. He was pale, and there were dark signs of sleeplessness beneath his eyes” (Fitzgerald 84).

**Passage Two (small group)**

“Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one” (Fitzgerald 93).

**Passage Three (individual)**

“There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams—not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything” (Fitzgerald 95).