

Max

Script!

My fellow Americans, we are here today to honor the memory of Mr. Jay Gatsby by ensuring that the two people responsible for his death are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

So who was Mr. Gatsby? He was the man who provided hope, with his luxurious parties with endless surprises. The man who let everyone in and welcomed people from all over. The man who everyone adored, no matter what rumors say. The man who inspired others to live on the edge and live to the fullest.

But then, George and Myrtle Wilson's actions brought Gatsby's life to an abrupt end. There is no question that the Wilsons are most responsible for Gatsby's death. Myrtle's desperate attempts to become a part of higher society are what lead to not only her own, but also Gatsby's death.

We mustn't forget about George though. When Myrtle was murdered, George's dreams of creating a family died with her. Clearly in a state of mental distress, he decided to seek out revenge, using his religion to justify his actions.

Myrtle Wilson was a materialistic and selfish woman. She was determined to become a part of higher society. This unhealthy fixation on social class ultimately consumed her and was the driving force behind most of her life choices. Mrs. Wilson's fixation with social class and materialistic tendencies are confirmed by her and Mr. Buchanan's shopping receipts. With which we can confirm that she was buying a plethora of expensive items. And who could forget the affair? Mrs. Wilson's romantic relationship with Mr. Tom Buchanan serves as yet another example of Myrtle's desperate attempts to become a part of higher society. The following is an excerpt from Nick Carraway's testimony of the events that occurred at Myrtle's apartment, in which he quotes Myrtle talking about her wedding night. "She suddenly pointed at me, and everyone looked at me accusingly. I tried to show by my expression that I had played no part in her past. Then she said 'The only CRAZY I was was when I married him. I knew right away I made a mistake. He borrowed somebody's best suit to get married in and never even told me about it.'" (PG 31) Nick's testimony puts Myrtle's shallowness, obsession with social class, and fixation with material wealth on display for all to see. It was Myrtle's materialism that led to her affair with Tom, and the only reason she was hit by Gatsby's car was because she ran towards it thinking that Tom was driving. Myrtle was the catalyst that sent George over the edge. Myrtle's life choices were the cause of her own death and, by extension, Gatsby's as well.

George lived his entire life below others. He was considered to be part of a lower class, he was considered to be a poor man in spirit, but none of that really mattered to George as long as he had his wife who provided feelings of strength and security. She gave him the idea of having a perfect family, where George wouldn't be below others but instead a husband and he believed he was a king. But when George discovered Myrtle had cheated on him, his fantasy of a perfect family, his power was suddenly put in jeopardy. Then, when Myrtle was killed by a driver with a yellow car, George's fear of losing power turned into a lust for revenge for the person who robbed him of his family. When Mr. Michaelis, the neighbor of the Wilson family came to help grieve with Mr. Wilson, George told him about how he discovered an expensive looking dog leash in a drawer the day *shows dog leash* before Myrtle's unexpected death. Michaelis claims that when Mr. Wilson had told him about the dog-leash he became obsessed with the idea that

man who gave Myrtle the dog leash was the man who killed Myrtle. A newsreporter who was still recording information about the death of Myrtle happened to also record a part of the conversation with George and Michaelis- *Recording* George became so fixated with the idea that the man who Myrtle cheated on was the man that killed her, that his obsession eventually grew to anger which grew violent. George needed closer for his wife's death, and what better way to find closer then go and hunt it down yourself? Michaelis even stated how discussing the death of Myrtle, George started to think "morbidly" and even though Michaelis repeatedly reminded George that Myrtle's death was an accident George claimed "He had a way to find out" who was the driver, already making a mental note that no matter what, he will kill the one who killed his wife. Once George's fairy tale family was shattered, George knew someone would need to pay, and sadly that person was Gatsby.

To help support his drive for revenge, George resorted to using religion as a sort of way to justify his means. In Michaelis's testimony Michaelis recalled George talking about Myrtle. He stated "I told her she might fool me but she couldn't fool God. I took her to the window and I said 'God knows what you've been doing. You may fool me, but you can't fool God!... God sees everything.'" Though George said this to Myrtle when she cheated, when Myrtle was killed, the same sort of "God sees everything" message took over George's mentality. He then began to think that God witnessed the death of his wife so God would allow George to punish the man that killed Myrtle. George used his religious "holy spirit" beliefs to ironically help aid him with the murder of Jay Gatsby.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that Myrtle's affair and death are what drove George to murder Gatsby. Her life choices played a significant role in the events that lead to Gatsby's death. HOWEVER, In the end, regardless of the series of events that drove George to murder Gatsby, WE. AS HUMAN BEINGS. Are ultimately responsible for our own actions. George Wilson was the one that went over to Gatsby's mansion, having already decided that he was going to kill him. George then willingly shot Gatsby in his own swimming pool without the slightest hesitation or a hint of remorse. In a Court of Law George's premeditated actions can only be defined as Murder in The First Degree.