

## VISUAL THESAURUS-BASED TASKS

### The Great Gatsby

<b>TARGET GROUP</b>	Secondary school pupils (14-15 +) (B2 +)
<b>CONTEXT</b> (Ex: in class, online etc.)	Blended learning environment
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being able to discuss what it means to be judgmental or objective and examine how these perspectives can be evident in one's use of language.</li> <li>• Being able to use the Visual Thesaurus to define fourteen vocabulary words used by Nick in his narration and to analyze these words in context.</li> <li>• Being able to evaluate whether or not Nick's word choice indicates a judgmental or objective perspective.</li> <li>• Being able to use one's analysis to draw conclusions about Nick as a narrator.</li> </ul>
<b>TOOLS AND RESOURCES</b>	<a href="#">Visual Thesaurus</a> Electronic whiteboard, computers or iPads with Internet access + " <a href="#">Judging Nick: The Great Gatsby</a> " chart
<b>CONTENT</b>	<p><b>STEPS:</b></p> <p>1. Distinguishing between objective and judgmental word choice:            Display the following three sentences on the whiteboard:  <i>My little brother ate a lot of macaroni.</i>  <i>The pipsqueak pigged out on macaroni.</i>  <i>The little darling relished the macaroni.</i></p> <p>Call on a few students to identify some of the similarities and differences among the sentences. Guide students to recognize that even though all three sentences have the same basic meaning, they differ in that one conveys an objective perspective, while the other two convey a judgment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sentence 1 conveys an objective perspective, using neutral word choices such as little brother and ate.</li> <li>- Sentence 2 conveys a negative judgment by using the words pipsqueak and pigged out.</li> <li>- Sentence 3 conveys a positive judgment by using the words little darling and relished.</li> </ul> <p>Emphasize that word choice can provide useful clues for determining whether a statement is objective or judgmental, as shown in these examples.</p> <p>2. Evaluating Nick's word choice:            Assign students to work either independently or in groups. Each individual or group will need access to the Visual Thesaurus.</p> <p>Note: Group work is recommended, as the goal of this activity is not to have students arrive at a single "correct" answer, but rather to promote careful consideration of the concepts of objectivity and judgment. Working together will provide students with the opportunity to discuss and refine their opinions.</p> <p>Distribute the "Judging Nick: The Great Gatsby" chart. Explain that the chart contains quotes from Nick's narration in the novel, and each quote contains one or more vocabulary words.</p>

Review the chart directions with the class. For each quote, students should:

- Identify who is described in the quote.
- Use the Visual Thesaurus to provide a brief definition or synonym for each vocabulary word as it used in the quote.
- For each vocabulary word, decide whether Nick's word choice conveys an objective perspective or a judgment.
- For words that convey a judgment, state whether the judgment is positive or negative.

Inform students that, in some cases, there may be more than one appropriate answer. If students are working in groups, help promote discussion and debate by instructing all members of a group to try to come to a consensus on each answer.

3) Wrap-up:

Sharing responses and drawing conclusions

When students have completed the chart, review their responses in a class discussion. Encourage students with different opinions to share and defend their answers.

Discuss as a class the following questions:

Does Nick judge other people, and if so, do his judgments tend to be positive or negative?

Can we as readers trust what Nick tells us?

How does your analysis of Nick's word choice influence your opinion of Nick as a narrator?

## ASSESSMENT

### EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' WORK

### TEACHER SELF-EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY

Completed charts should be assessed according to:

1. Correct character identification
2. Appropriate definitions or synonyms and
3. Appropriate labelling of Nick's word choices as objective, judgmental (negative), or judgmental (positive). Students should be able to defend their answers in class discussion.

## ADDED VALUE

(Increase in value created by the use of the ICT tool)

- Visual Thesaurus offers a quick and easy way to visualize connections and semantic relations between different synonyms
- The definitions of different synonymous concepts can be displayed easily, facilitating acquisition of new vocabulary
- Visual thesaurus and this type of exercise encourage the perception of subtleties in meaning and expansion of one's conceptual network

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

This very rich resources can be overwhelming for students. A guided exploration of the tool can help familiarize the students with the tool.