

Binary opposition:

In [critical theory](#), a **binary opposition** (also **binary system**) is a pair of related terms or concepts that are opposite in meaning. Binary opposition is the system by which, in language and thought, two theoretical opposites are strictly defined and set off against one another.^[1] It is the contrast between two mutually exclusive terms, such as on and off, up and down, left and right.^[2] Binary opposition is an important concept of structuralism, which sees such distinctions as fundamental to all language and thought.^[2] In [structuralism](#), a binary opposition is seen as a fundamental organizer of human philosophy, culture, and language.

from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary_opposition>

See also; <http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/popups/opposition.htm>

Black	White
Security	Fear
Feminine	Masculine
Sane	Insane
Freedom	Surveillance
Relaxed	Tense
House	Street
Warmth	Cold
Woman in white	Stalker in black
Comfort	Discomfort



Questions to ponder...

Gatsby

- How is Gatsby different to the other characters?
- Why does Nick gravitate towards Gatsby?
- What does Gatsby actually stand for?

Imagery and motif in settings

- What are the three major locations in this text?
- What imagery is associated with the 'ash heaps'?
- How do the 'ash heaps' function as a motif?
- What are the differences between the representation of the 'Eggs' and New York? (Think about the stuff that happens in each place, the descriptions of how each place looks, the people that inhabit each place.)

Oppositions

- What oppositions can you think of that this text sets up?