

# THE GREAT GATSBY AND THE SENSE OF SIGHT: THE EYES OF DR. T.J. ECKLEBURG

## CONSIDER A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

In nearly any piece of literature, there are characters who possess a “side” that other characters may not see; usually, this “side” reveals quite a lot about the character, which only the reader may come to know through careful observation. In *The Great Gatsby*, the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg serve as an all-seeing observer, perhaps noticing about some of the characters what others do not. Put yourself in the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg, and choose one character on which to focus. What side do you see about your characters that others may not? What does this reveal about your character? There will not necessarily be one “right” answer to this, because your understanding of your character is unique- therefore, you may not have the same product as someone else who is focusing on the same character as you. Ask yourself, “What isn’t seen by everyone?”

## PROCEDURE:

On a separate sheet of paper, you will create the “eyes” of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg as a symbol of their vision of the “side” of your character you have chosen to portray. Be creative with this! The final product must be at least the size of this paper (8 ½ x 11) and use neat and careful illustration to convey what you want to show. You are welcome and encouraged to use a range of materials.

## The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg

Brainstorm
Chapter II
Chapter XIII
Other examples:

## Character Focus

**My character of focus:**

**My character's side of focus (describe in your own words):**

**Supporting text evidence with page number:**

**Ways (pictures/symbols) to show this image:**

**Image planning: "What isn't seen by everyone?"**

## II. REFLECTION/WRITE-UP

Answer the following questions to be turned in with the rubric with your “eyes”.

1. Provide a relevant piece of evidence (cited with author’s last name and page number) from the text that clearly describes 1) the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg and 2). the side of your character that the eyes might reveal.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe in at least 5-6 sentences the “hidden” side of your character. Include the following information in your description: context (setting, situation of character(s), point in plot), significance to character and plot, and thorough description of why this side is revealed only through careful observation.