The author conveys/illustrates/proves/demonstrates/highlights.... DO NOT SAY THE AUTHOR IS ABLE TO

There will be no author or title mentioned for this prose essay. Refer to the passage as: the passage or the excerpt. If you refer to the author, say: the author and choose one pronoun to stick with for the essay (he/she).

**Literary Elements and Techniques you can always use:**

* Characterization: Gatsby is characterized as a hopeful character through his....
* Imagery: The imagery of the dead leaves and gray skies conveys/illustates/highlights/shows/demonstrates
* Diction and Tone: The author’s diction conveys a melancholic tone. For example, his use of the words “somber”, “dark”, etc...illustrates/conveys/etc..
* Selection of detail: details are bits of factual information the author chooses to include. So if an author tells us that characters have been friends since they were babies, that’s a detail that may or may not be important in your analysis. Why would the author choose to include that detail? What can you infer from that detail? Here is where you work your analytical magic!

And of course you can use any devices that you see in the work: If you’re going to use metaphors/similes/hyperbole, you should say figurative language and cite multiple examples unless it’s an extended metaphor and you have a lot to say about it.

Irony, paradox, repetition, syntax, symbolism, etc...Literally anything you see. I’ve seen some beautiful catches by people on the practice ones...Don’t forget the importance of colors, trees, rivers (life, changes), water (cleansing/baptism), people not having names, religious imagery, etc...This will be brilliant if you catch things like this!

Please put commas and capital letters in your quotes and USE THE ENTIRE QUOTE.

CAPITALIZE NAMES AND TITLES. I’m seeing this A LOT. I know you’re rushing. I don’t care. Capitalize anyway.

Also, and this is killing me everyone, WOMEN: PLURAL WOMAN: SINGULAR. Again, I’ve seen this in at least 10 practice essays over the last few weeks.

**Most importantly:**

Thesis statement MUST ANSWER THE QUESTION. If you are asked how a relationship or a character is COMPLEX, you MUST answer by discussing how the relationship is complicated or composed of several parts.

* You can’t just give a one-word answer: The relationship is strained.
* And you cannot give a two- word answer that says the same thing: The relationship is strained and negative.
* And you cannot say this: The relationship is complex. If you say that last one, you will NOT get the thesis point because you’re not answering the question!!

Topic sentences MUST include claims. They must say what you’re proving in that paragraph. Remember you are NEVER proving the literary technique.

* The author uses imagery in the passage. (BAD!!)
* The author uses imagery to describe the relationship. (STILL BAD!!)
* Imagery throughout the passage illustrates how **competitive and toxic** the relationship between the cousins actually was. (Competitive and toxic answers the question and says what I’m proving in this paragraph!)