

Date 9 / 26 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Young and Beautiful"Author / Director / Lana Del Rey

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Lana Del Rey is one of my favorite artists, but the first time I actually heard this song by her was in the movie *The Great Gatsby*.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

"Young and Beautiful" is a song written from the perspective of Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*. In the song, Daisy reminisces about her past times and old relationship with Jay Gatsby, whom she becomes infatuated with in the movie. Because he was absent for five years of her life, Daisy doesn't know if she can ever love him again, but her present infatuation is expressed through these lyrics as Lana sings, "Will you still love me when I'm no longer young and beautiful? / Will you still love me when I've got nothing but my aching soul? / I know you will, I know you will." Daisy has some sort of hope that her relationship with Gatsby, either intimate or not, will be able to hang on this time.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

"Young and Beautiful" ultimately revolves around the concept and theme of unconditional love. The speaker of the lyrics seems to know that her lover will continue to love her through the rest of their lives together despite deteriorating beauty and old age. She wants and hopes that their relationship will be genuine and real, and that it will persist through various challenges and obstacles. True and unconditional love does not change when it has the ability to do so, and it will last forever despite anything that happens in a relationship. Ironically, the speaker of these lyrics, Daisy (though she doesn't actually sing them), so strongly desires this meaningful love from Gatsby over the artificial and temporary love that is so prominent in society; however, she does not seem committed or mature enough to love on the same emotional level that she desires.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Young and Beautiful" is an alternative rock ballad, meaning that it is regarded as a nonconformist style of rock written in a form of narrative verse. In the song, Daisy symbolizes the person who is theoretically singing the lyrics to Gatsby, though, in the movie, it seems like Gatsby is the one who much more desires the complete love of Daisy than she desires his love. Finally, because Daisy is so self-conceited, there is some irony in the sense that she is pleading for ever-lasting love from Gatsby, but she practically states herself that she only loves him for his appearances.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Despite all of the drama that actually takes place in *The Great Gatsby*, when boiled down, the lyrics are downright poetic. They express a concern for meaning and substantiality in a relationship rather than a concern for the shallowness of feeling-based relationships, which unfortunately characterizes many of the relationships in modern society due to the influences of pop culture and the media. These types of fake relationships, however, only leave people lost and unfulfilled. In particular, this song reminds me of both the play *Romeo and Juliet* and Shakespeare's "Sonnet 116." Both of these Shakespearean works characterize genuine love by its persistence and consistency through the variability of life. In context of these lyrics, the speaker seems to possess a poetic faith in the decency of humanity, believing that humans contain the capacity to exhibit this type of genuine love. Ultimately, the song is poetic because it optimistically displays a hope that humans can be so passionately loving and self-giving in a relationship despite their ever so intrinsic selfishness.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)