Green = Claim (topic, main idea)

Blue = Lead-in

Purple = evidence

Red = interpretation

\_C\_\_ George Wilson is *repeatedly* characterized as a *weak* man whose *hope for a better life is broken* by the materialism surrounding him. \_LI\_\_When he first appears, the *weakness* of George’s “spiritless” (Fitzgerald 25) appearance suggests a man *sapped* by time and pressure. This *worn* demeanor *repeats* in the look of his business, covered in “white ashen dust” (Fitzgerald 26) that layers his *bleak* appearance. \_Int\_\_**George is a man *brought low* by the circumstances of his poverty. He lives in the Valley of Ashes and is not a part of the wealth and materialism that happens in the surrounding affluence of New York society. This makes him a *weak* man, unable to afford the grandeur he and his wife desire.** \_LI\_\_Later on, the full extent of his *broken hope* is shown when he feels the judgment of God from the eyes of the billboard outside his window, exclaiming to his wife “’You can fool me, but you can’t fool God!’” (Fitzgerald 159) to show his *despair* at her cheating ways. The image of his *broken hope* *echoes* when his “glazed eyes [turn] out to the ashheaps,” (Fitzgerald 159) reflecting the *futility* of his surroundings. Her accidental death the next day causes him to become *utterly hopeless*, **“seeking vengeance on the wealthy Gatsby” (Stevens 13)** whom he incorrectly blames for her demise before killing himself to end his *desperate* life. \_Inter\_\_George could not live without his one true hope, his wife Myrtle. Her death, caused by material desire and jealousy, finally *broke him of this faith* in the American Dream of wealth and privilege. A *feeble* and *miserable* man, George decides to break free of the rat race in the only way he knows how: death. \_\_\_George’s death becomes symbolic of the struggle of the middle class during the 1920s. His *weakness* and *broken hope* at not achieving the wealth so desired by society becomes a warning to others, a lesson in what happens when you take the focus from self-worth and happiness to rampant materialism.