**A Literary Foil**: a character who contrasts with another character —usually the protagonist— to highlight particular qualities of the other character.

Think about Patrick as a literary foil of Sponge Bob.

Other notable literary foils are

* Romeo and Mercutio in [*Romeo and Juliet*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/romeo-and-juliet-by-william-shakespeare)
* Lennie and George in [*Of Mice and Men*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/of-mice-and-men-by-john-steinbeck)
* Mary and Lydia Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*
* Harry Potter and Voldemort in the Harry Potter series
* Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in [*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/dr--jekyll-and-mr--hyde-by-robert-louis-stevenson)
* Pip and Estella in [*Great Expectations*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/great-expectations-by-charles-dickens)
* Amir and Hassan in [*The Kite Runner*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/kite-runner-by-khaled-hosseini)
* Dr. Frankenstein and his monster in [*Frankenstein*](https://www.storyboardthat.com/lesson-plans/frankenstein-by-mary-shelley)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nick Carraway, the narrator | Jay Gatsby, the focal character |
| similarities | * Gatsby is “a man of about my age” (47) * Shares a “moment about some wet, gray little villages in France” with Gatsby (47) * Lives in a shack (“an eyesore”) in West Egg * Carraway is falling for Jordan Baker * Is originally from Minnesota * Wants to be the Renaissance man and dreams his own American Dream. | * Is “a man of about my age” (47) * Shares a “moment about some wet, gray little villages in France” (47) * Lives in a mansion in West Egg * Gatsby fell in love with Daisy * Hailed from North Dakota * Wants to flaunt that he achieved his American Dream (that is Daisy). |
| Differences | * Has many internal brakes that prevent him from compulsive actions and emotions. * Is educated at Yale University * Has a mature relationship with his family, especially with his father (Chapter 1) | * Is a “genuine fake” * Is “elegant young roughneck” (48) * Seems to harbor “an irresistible prejudice in your favor” (48) * Awkward with almost absurd formality and a winsome smile * “Picking his words with care” (48) |