1. Critically analyse the plot and narrative technique of Black Spring.

**Ans:** Narrative technique refers to any method a writer may use to narrate a story and convey the intended message. Narrative techniques can also be called literary techniques or literary devices. Narrative techniques can include point of view, plot elements, and style elements, among others. Like many of his works, Henry Miller's Black Spring is a very Surrealistic novel. Surrealism is a literary and visual arts movement that began in the 1920s as a reaction against the rationalism Western society had built its culture and politics upon, the same rationalism that led to World War I. Instead of rationalism, Surrealism celebrated the unconsciousness by creating fantasy and dream worlds. Miller uses narrative techniques to create his Surrealism.

One narrative technique that takes the narrative out of the realms of rational thought and into Surrealism is the frequent change in point of view. As we can see by the use of the pronoun "I" in the first sentence, "I am a patriot—of the Fourteenth Ward, Brooklyn, where I was raised," the story is narrated in the first-person point of view. The narration also dominantly remains in the first-person point of view. However, the narrator also switches to speaking in second person as he analyzes his own thoughts, as if inviting his readers to accept his thoughts and experiences as their own. We can see an example of his switch to second-person point of view in the third paragraph in which he analyzes what it means "to be born on the street":

"To be born on the street means to wander all your life, to be free. It means accident and incident, drama, movement. It means above all dream. A harmony of irrelevant facts which gives to your wandering a metaphysical certitude."

Since the narrator is addressing the reader as "you," the narrator is inviting us, the readers, to participate in understand what it means to be street-smart by picturing ourselves, not the narrator, on the streets.

2. Discuss The Great Gatsby as a fable and an allegory.

**Ans:** “Great Gatsby" by Scott Fitzgerald is one of the best American novels owing to its thematic strength. It reflects “The Jazz Age” of 1920s and the writer artistically examine the theme of aspiration in America during this era. Fitzgerald wrote this novel as a satire on this so called glamorous period. The title per se conjures images of an intriguing persona, Gatsby. If (Novel) takes into account “the complicated feelings we have about Jay Gatsby” who is “driven by a dream”, enriched by bootlegging wealth.” (Sutherland 97).

Beyond that, The Great Gatsby is an allegory of society. The surface study shows that its about love relation between Gatsby and Daisy. But it has much broader theme rather than big romantic scope. The Great Gatsby is a story of "American Dream" or rather “Perverted American Dream”.

It is very symbolic story of "Roaring Age" of 1920s America, particularly the story of shattering of American Dream in that era of economic prosperity and material abundance. It exposes how the American people adulterated American Dream by indulging in immoral and unethical pursuits of wealth. The energy to be burnt in noble purpose gets started to be burnt in show off and individual pleasure, fame and success. All other themes of the novel strengthen this theme through out the story. The people become selfish, indulge themselves in vulgar means of wealth, disloyalty is at its peak and the most important of all, they forget the American dream was originally about discovery, individualism, and the pursuit of happiness.

Jay Gatsby, the protagonist, hails from a poor family and becomes rich through illegal means. He is the darker side of American dream. There’s no denying the fact that the fall of American dream is the super theme of the story and rest of the themes support it fully. The story shows how reality turns into illusion and how dream is shattered. And Jay is an emblem of it. He shows the impossibility of American dream in an era of immorality where there is no place for religion and ethics but for wealth, the prime interest. Nick Carraway is another character totally different from Gatsby. Fitzgerald has juxtaposed this character to show the evil tendencies in the American society.

In The Great Gatsby, the rich male protagonist’s unquenchable desire for material wealth and self-affirmation of his ability to make friends also resembles Arthur Miller’s male lead in Death of a Salesman except that in the latter, Willy Loman, who pursues the American dream at all costs and loses his grip on reality early on, lives and dies a poor man. Both male personas embody the notion explicitly stated in the classic play, “It’s the only dream you can love—to come out number-one man.”

As for Nick, who clearly embodies Shakespeare’s “fair is foul and foul is fair” line in Macbeth with the way he sees Gatsby’s spectacular lifestyle and misdeeds but who still reveres Gatsby, comes out as a detached observer. This is expressed in an online article entitled “The Great Gatsby: Nick – Detached or Dishonest?”. In his piece, “Nick Carraway and the Image of Disorder,” author-editor Peter Lisca presented Nick as a “paradigm of ord and decorum” in stark contrast to “the chaos of Gatsby's world.”

The Great Gatsby is the biggest example of skilled narrative art as it is based on the principle of “double vision”. Everything in the novel is seen in two ways: on the one hand it looks a romantic love story of Gatsby and Daisy, and on the other hand it is about “perverted form of American Dream”. Scott Fitzgerald is successful in writing a fiction which carries two parallel stories at the same time. The writer himself once stated, "The test of a first rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.” The story offers the reader to form quality of double vision to see everything in two ways. The surface study of the novel shows that its about love relation between Daisy and Gatsby, but if we probe into the theme, its about corruption of American dream and a failure to achieve ideals.

The writer attempted to make readers see through his eyes. The reader is made to believe in the possibilities of variety of opposed ideas. That’s why it is also called “an allegorical novel”. The reader forms different opinion about the novel when he starts reading.