SND Journal, Themes, Symbolism

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| **THEMES:** As you read, consider each of the following themes as they emerge in the play. Write down how you think each theme works in the play. Why is it a theme? What evidence from the play supports the theme? What lesson is the reader intended to learn? Think about what other themes are also emerging.  **Theme #1-** Fantasy versus Reality  **Theme #2-** Woman’s Dependence on Man  **Theme #3-** Social Class Conflict |
| **JOURNAL**  For each of the eleven scenes you will be expected to write a journal entry. Each scene entry is worth 20 points for a total of 220 points. This will have a significant impact on your journal grade. The following are the requirements for the journal:   1. Create a relevant title for each entry and include the scene number. (2 points) 2. Write a five-sentence scene summary. (4 points) 3. For each scene choose a *different* character to focus on.    1. Name the character.    2. Choose a quote from the scene that you think best represents the character and explain why you chose that quote. (3)    3. Describe his/her best and worst qualities. (2)    4. In one paragraph describe the character’s role in the novel. (2) 4. For each scene choose one meaningful quote, and then describe its significance in the play. (3) 5. For each chapter note at least two sightings of one or more of the following symbols: strong light / bare light bulb, paper lantern / shadow, white clothing, package of meat, bathing, music (polka, jazz, Paper Moon), moth / butterflies. (2) 6. Explain the significance of each symbol\*. (2) |
| **SYMBOLISM** is the use of an object, a person, a place, or an experience that represents something else, usually something abstract. A symbol may have more than one meaning, or its meaning may change from the beginning to the end of a literary work. For example (see other side):   |  |  | | --- | --- | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image002.gif  Light Bulb | The "naked" light bulb symbolizes truth and reality (Blanche doesn’t like it). The light bulb also symbolizes an epiphany, an "a-ha!" moment, when some new idea or concept occurs to a person. | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image004.jpg  Paper Lantern | The paper lantern symbolizes something flimsy that is used to disguise reality, create illusion, and hide (softens) the truth. However, the paper lantern cannot last, it can only temporarily create a romantic glow and keep the truth in shadow. The paper lantern is used by Blanche to disguise her fading beauty and indecent past. | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image006.gif  White Clothing | White symbolizes purity and innocence. | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image008.gif  Package of Meat | The package of meat that Stanley throws at Stella and her eager catching of the meat is a symbol of their sexual relationship. Stanley is the provider (hunter & gatherer) and Stella waits happily at home for his return. The meat represents Stanley's almost barbaric manliness. | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image010.gif  Bathing | Blanche's constant bathing shows her need to cleanse herself (metaphorically) of the impurities and disappointments in her past (the Hotel Flamingo, her own sinful behavior with her young husband). The bathing helps relax Blanche's nerves and allows her mind to imagine that she is in better circumstances. Bathing also makes Blanche feel young and girlish, laughing, singing, and splashing in the tub like a child. | | http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/teachers/lfischer/streetcar/streetcar_clip_image011.gif  Polka Music | The polka music that Blanche hears whenever her young husband is discussed reminds Blanche of the frenzied manner in which she lost her husband. This music haunts Blanche and is one of the realities that she desires to escape. | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
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Other symbols: Elysian Fields, Desire, Cemetery, Moths/Butterflies, Character Names: Blanche, Stella, Belle Reve, Stella’s Baby