**Streetcar Named Desire Study Guide /Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Scene One**

1. When we first meet Blanche DuBois, she has traveled to see her sister Stella. She took streetcars named Desire and Cemeteries to arrive at her sister’s apartment. What might these names represent?
2. Describe Blanche’s appearance when she first emerges in the play. Be specific and detailed. What might her clothing represent? How well does she fit into her surroundings? What inferences might you make about her character?
3. Describe Stanley’s appearance when he first enters the play. Be specific and detailed. What does the package he is holding represent? How does his behavior give an insight into his character? What inferences might you make about Stanley Kowalski.
4. Blanche goes into Stella’s apartment to wait for her to come home. What does she do while she is waiting?
5. What does Belle Reve mean? What does it refer to in the play?
6. At the end of Scene One, what music “rises up, faint in the distance”? How does this effect the mood of the scene? What other sound effects has Williams’ included in the first scene? What moods did these sound effects evoke?
7. How does Blanche react to Stella’s living situation? Why might this set a negative tone for her visit?
8. When did Stella meet Stanley? How have their circumstances changed since that time?
9. What happened to Belle Reve? Why?
10. Near the end of Scene One, what do we learn about Blanche’s husband?

**Scene Two**

1. What is Stanley’s reaction at the news that Belle Reve has been lost?
2. What is Blanche doing while Stanley and Stella discuss Belle Reve?
3. What does Stanley think that Blanche has done with the money he believes she made from selling Belle Reve?
4. What does Stanley tell Blanche about Stella as they are going through her business papers?
5. How does Blanche describe a woman’s charm?
6. What does Stanley discover in Blanche’s trunk that she doesn’t want him to touch?
7. What news does Stanley reveal to Blanche about Stella?

**Scene Three**

1. Where are Stella and Blanche going while the men play poker?

2. Why is Mitch preoccupied during the poker game?

3. Whom does Stella introduce Blanche to? What does she say about him?

4. What lie does Blanche tell Mitch about herself? Why?

5. Who gave Mitch his silver cigarette case? What is the inscription on it?

6. When Stanley asks Blanche to turn off the radio and she does not comply, what does he do?

7. Why doesn’t Blanche like bright lights?

8. What happens between Stella and Stanley that ends the poker game?

9. What kind of relationship do Stella and Stanley have?

10. Why is the paper lantern so important to Blanche?

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**Scene Four**

1. What did Stanley do on his wedding night and how did Stella react? What does this reveal about them?
2. Who is Shep Huntleigh? Why does Blanche NOT tell him the truth about her situation (in her letter)?
3. What idea does Blanche have to escape New Orleans with Stella? Is this idea feasible (rational)?
4. When Blanche and Stella are discussing Stanley, his entrance to the apartment is washed out by a passing train. What does he hear Blanche say about him?

**Scene Five**

1. Blanche discusses astrological signs. What sign does she think Stanley was born under and why? What sign does she say she was born under? What does it mean?
2. Seemingly out of the blue, Stanley asks Blanche if she knows someone named Shaw. He says that Shaw knew Blanche from Laurel, but must have mixed her up with someone else who partied at the Hotel Flamingo. What is Blanche’s response?
3. Who is coming over to see Blanche on this night? Why is this important to Blanche?
4. After Stella and Stanley leave, a young man comes to the door collecting money for the local newspaper, *The Evening Star*. What does Blanche do to him? What does this scene reveal about her character?
5. Why does Blanche flirt with the newspaper boy?

**Scene Six**

1. Blanche and Mitch discuss Stanley. Blanche asks Mitch if Stanley talks much about her and explains how horrid he is making her life there with them. How does Mitch respond?
2. At the end of the scene, Blanche is confiding in Mitch by telling him the story of how her husband died. How did he die? What events preceded his death?
3. Why do you think Blanche drinks? [Don’t say she’s an alcoholic. Dig deeper.]
4. What kind of music is mentioned in scenes four, five, and six and what is happening at the time?

**Scene Seven**

1. It is now mid-September and Blanche’s birthday. Stella has prepared a party for her. Stanley lets Stella know that he has learned some things about Blanche. What does he reveal about Blanche?
2. During the talk between Stanley and Stella, Blanche is in the tub singing. What does she sing about? What larger significance in the novel might these lyrics have?
3. What has Stanley bought for Blanche?
4. Who is supposed to come over for Blanche’s birthday? Why does Stanley say this person won’t be coming? What significance might this have for Blanche’s future?

**Scene Eight**

1. Blanche has been stood up. They sit talking at the table and Stanley gets angry at Stella for telling him his face and fingers are disgustingly greasy. What does he do in response?
2. According to Stanley, how has Blanche acted as a catalyst and changed his relationship with Stella?
3. What happens at the end of scene eight?

**Scene Nine**

1. Who stops by unexpectedly to see Blanche? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Blanche say about reality in this scene? What does that reveal about her character? What things that Blanche has done and said earlier in the play can you relate this to?
3. What does Blanche admit happened after her husband’s death? Why did she say she did this?
4. Why does Mitch say he won’t marry Blanche now?
5. Why does Blanche scream “fire” at the end of the scene? [Consider why she yells “fire” and not something else.] What effect does it have?
6. What is the symbolic meaning of the Mexican woman selling flowers for the dead at the end of the scene?
7. Why does Mitch rip the paper lantern off the light bulb? What does this symbolize?

**Scene Ten**

1. Stanley comes home from the hospital. Blanche has been drinking fairly steadily since Mitch left. Who does she tell Stanley she heard from? What invitation does she say he extended?

1. Blanche tells Stanley that Mitch came to see her that night. What does she tell him the reason was?
2. What happens at the end of scene ten?

**Scene Eleven**

1. Several weeks have passed and Stella is packing Blanche’s things; where does Blanche think she is going and where is she actually going?
2. Why did Stella agree to send Blanche away?
3. If you were Stella, a poor woman with an infant, would you do the same thing? Fully explain your answer.