**“A Streetcar Named Desire”**

**Vocabulary Scenes 1 – 4**

1. Appraise
2. Cosmopolitan
3. Decay
4. Emblem
5. Evoke
6. Improvident
7. Incongruous
8. Lunacy
9. Perpetual
10. Peruse
11. Preen
12. Primitive
13. Treachery
14. Valise
15. Vivacity

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**Scene Questions**

Scene I

1. What is the setting for the play?
2. Who lives “upstairs”?
3. Why was Blanche shocked at Stella’s home?
4. What evidence in her clothing and speech indicates that Blanche does not fit well into this environment?
5. What information suggests that Blanche is a heavy drinker?
6. What line indicates that Stella loves Stanley?
7. What, at Belle Reve, has made Blanche’s life miserable?
8. What does Stanley notice about his liquor bottle?
9. Why, apparently, does Blanche become sick?

Scene II

1. Why may Stanley be annoyed with the “cold plate”?
2. Of what may bathing be symbolic?
3. Why is Stanley angry about Belle Reve and the clothes and jewelry?
4. Why does Stanley yell that Blanche should “cut the rebop”?
5. Why has happened to Belle Reve?
6. Why were Stella and Blanche leaving the apartment that night?

Scene III

1. Why is Stanley annoyed when this scene opens?
2. What are two examples that suggest that Mitch is more sensitive than the other men?
3. What may Blanche find appealing about the cigarette case?
4. What three incidents annoy Stanley after the girls arrive home?
5. Why does Stanley throw the radio out of the window?
6. Why does Stanley strike Stella? Why does she return to him?

Scene IV

1. Why is Blanche shocked at Stella’s behavior the next morning?
2. Why does Blanche’s panicky state seem silly to Stella?
3. What does “riding the streetcar named Desire” mean literally?
4. What does it mean figuratively?
5. In her conversation with Stella, what words does Blanche use to describe Stanley?
6. What is Stella’s reaction to Stanley at the end of Scene 4?
7. Who has won this battle between Stanley and Blanche?

**Significant Quotations**

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**Scenes 1 – 3**

Locate quotations from scenes 1, 2, and 3 to support the following ideas.

1. Blanche feels that a woman’s appearance is very important.
2. Stella’s life now and the people in it are very different from that in the past.
3. Blanche had a difficult time emotionally at Belle Reve.
4. Blanche resents the fact that Stella did not help with the problems at Belle Reve.
5. At first, Stanley believes Blanche cheated him.
6. Mitch is more gentlemanly and sensitive than the other men.
7. Stanley demands control in his own home.
8. Blanche threatens Stanley’s control.
9. Blanche lies to make herself more appealing to Mitch.
10. Stanley and Stella love each other.

**Theme**

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**Scenes 1 – 4**

There are a number of themes in the play. **A theme is a complete sentence about a topic**.

**Directions:**

▪Examine the topic listed on the left and themes listed on the right.

▪After examining these themes, answer the following questions with information from the play.

▪Then, next to the question, write the letter of the theme to which the question best relates.

**THEMES**

1. Most people are neither all good nor all bad.
2. Many times the brutish people take advantage of or destroy the fragile people.
3. Many people prefer illusions (dreams, lies) rather than reality.
4. Some people try to control their world by using brute force.

**Theme Letter**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ When does Stanley yell to get everyone’s attention?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ When does Blanche say that the extra bed is fine for her?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ When does Stanley say “Cut the rebop!” to indicate he wants the truth from

Blanche?

1. \_\_\_\_\_What is Stella’s reaction when Stanley goes away for a week?
2. \_\_\_\_\_Who pretends to be younger than she really is?
3. \_\_\_\_\_What does Stanley throw out the window because he is angry?
4. \_\_\_\_\_Why does Stanley hit Stella?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Why does Stella return to Stanley at the end of Scene 3?
6. \_\_\_\_\_Who seems shocked and fearful that Stella stays with Stanley
7. \_\_\_\_\_Who lies to Mitch hoping that he will like her more?

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**Vocabulary Scenes 5 – 8**

1. Vulgar
2. Bestial
3. Contemptible
4. Coquettish
5. Deluded
6. Dote
7. Emphatic
8. Incredulous
9. Morbid
10. Peal
11. Precede
12. Quaint
13. Row
14. Serene
15. Solemn

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**Scene Questions**

Scene V

1. Who, apparently, is a man named Shep Huntleigh?
2. Why does Stanley laugh when he hear Blanche’s astrological sign?
3. What do the names *Shaw* and *Hotel Flamingo* have to do with Blanche?
4. Why is Blanche disillusioned about her future?
5. In what way has Blanche created an illusion for Mitch? Why?
6. What is Blanche’s reaction to the young newspaper boy?

Scene VI

1. What aspect of Mitch’s conversation suggests his “commonness” or his lack of class?
2. Who does Blanche see as her nemesis?
3. Why is Blanche willing to share the secrets about her past with Mitch?
4. How do the following ideas relate to the information Blanche tells Mitch?
   1. Illusion of love
   2. Blanche and “deliberate cruelty”
   3. The Varsouviana Waltz
   4. Blanche’s fondness for young men
5. Why does this scene end on a positive note?

Scene VII

1. What are three facts that Stanley reveals about Blanche?
2. Why, in this scene, is Blanche’s singing in the bathroom ironic?
3. What may Blanche’s bathing symbolize?
4. Why didn’t Mitch show up for the birthday party?
5. What illusion was Blanche hoping would happen in her life?
6. How did Stanley shatter that illusion?
7. What justification did Stanley have for telling Mitch the information?

Scene VIII

1. Despite the fact that it is Blanche’s birthday, who will celebrate this night? Why?
2. Why did Stanley throw the dishes on the floor?
3. Why does Stanley remind Stella of their good times together?
4. Does Stanley admit that he is common? How does he justify his commonness?
5. How are “death” and “life” symbolized in this scene?

**Theme**

**“A Streetcar Named Desire”**

**Scenes 5 – 8**

Theme: Many people have secrets that cause problems in their lives. In Scene 6, Blanche reveals to Mitch many secrets about her past. Explain how the following ideas relate to the secret she reveals.

1. The Varsouvianna Waltz
2. The deliberate cruelty Blanche feels she committed.
3. Blanche’s marriage as an illusion of love
4. Blanche’s desire to relive the past and make changes in it
5. Blanche’s flirting with the newspaper boy.

Theme: Many people have secrets that cause problems in their lives. In Scene 7, Stanley reveals many secrets about Blanche’s past. Explain the following ideas.

1. The Hotel Flamingo
2. The High School boy
3. Blanche’s reputation in Laurel
4. Blanche’s reason for being with Stella and Stanley
5. Blanche’s wanting to be with Mitch.

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**Vocabulary Scenes 9 – 11**

1. Vicinity
2. Wince
3. Uncouth
4. Callous
5. Conceit
6. Dismal
7. Enrich
8. Grotesque
9. Implore
10. Obscure
11. Partial
12. Protrude
13. Repertoire
14. Transitory
15. Slander

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**Scene Questions**

Scene IX

1. From what does Blanche use liquor as an escape?
2. What does Mitch do to the paper lantern?
3. What may his actions symbolize?
4. What is Blanche’s attitude toward reality?
5. What is her attitude toward magic (illusion)?
6. Why won’t Mitch marry Blanche? Do you think he is justified in his reasons?

Scene X

1. Where has Stanley been as the scene opens?
2. What illusion does Blanche create to explain her clothes?
3. What other lie does Blanche create?

1. What may the confusing sounds and images represent when Stanley attacks Blanche?

Scene XI

1. How much time has passed since the last scene?
2. What is the difference between the earlier poker scene and this poker scene?
3. What is going to happen to Blanche?
4. What has Stella chosen not to believe?
5. What facts have influenced Stella’s choice?
6. What is Eunice’s advice to Stella
7. What does Blanche believe that suggests that she is finally given over to her illusions and is out of touch with reality?
8. What symbolic gesture does Stanley do?
9. What aspect of the doctor seems to calm Blanche?
10. Write one line that suggests Mitch’s attitude in this scene.
11. Write Blanche’s last line in the play.
12. Why is this statement especially true for Blanche’s life?
13. Why details suggest whether Stanley and Stella will stay together?

**Significant Quotations**

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State the speaker of the following quotes:

1. “When he’s away for a week, I nearly go wild.”
2. “Pearls, ropes of them, what is she, a deep sea diver?”
3. “I wish you’d stop taking it for granted that I’m in something I want to get out of.”
4. “That shut her up like a clam.”
5. “I don’t know how much longer I can turn the trick”
6. “I want to rest. I want to breathe quietly again.”
7. “I am ashamed of the way I perspire.”
8. “He is not going to jump into a school of sharks.”
9. “Mr. Kowalski is too busy making a pig of himself.”
10. “I hope that his eyes are like two blue candles in a white cake.”
11. “Don’t ever believe it. Life has to go on no matter what happens.”
12. “I was fool enough to believe you was straight.”
13. “I pulled you down off them columns and how you loved it.”
14. “I didn’t lie in my heart.”
15. “And then the searchlight that had been turned on in the world was turned off…”
16. “Wasn’t we happy with them colored lights going?”
17. “You look like a prince out of the Arabian nights.”
18. “You was lapping…liquor all summer like a wild cat.”
19. “You’re not clean enough to bring in the house with my mother.”
20. “Desire brought me here where I’m not wanted and where I’m ashamed to be.”
21. “Whoever you are, I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.”
22. “Haven’t you ever ridden on that streetcar?”
23. “And I am the King around her and don’t you forget it.”
24. “I shall die of eating an unwashed grape one day.”
25. “Death…the opposite is desire.”