

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 2 ☒ Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒
Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒ Question 7 ☒
Question 8 ☒

Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar named Desire" is a Southern gothic play which outlines themes of alcoholism, status, ~~sensuality~~ sex, money and many more. Williams uses the protagonists of Blanche and Stanley as vehicles of his views towards the ~~Old~~ ^{new} South and ~~Old~~ ^{Old} South. In this extract, the effective creation of illusion is prominent as Blanche tries to carry her facade. She is still a young Southern Belle looking for the right man whilst Stanley also emphasises her extreme dependence on men in order to maintain her sanity. This represents the Old South views of Southern Belles relying on looking out for a Southern gentleman as well as the dependence on a man for marriage. However, Williams' thoughts on the sexual liberation of women is evident through the character of Blanche which is why she puts on a facade and relies on men to maintain this facade, removing any reality of her true nature.



In the beginning of the extract, Blanche speaks to herself in the mirror and it were a man, this immediately gives the impression that she is lonely and longing for companionship now she has lost her chance with Mitch. ^{This is Williams' way} ~~But~~ However, the stage direction of creating impression as Blanche acts out such a scene to enhance her facade and illusion of being an innocent, desirable woman even further. Williams's use of stage directions promotes the true insecurities of Blanche and relates to her dependence of men thus reason to her lie about Shep Ffittleigh. Williams writes "she lifts the hand mirror for closer inspection... Slams the mirror down with such violence that the glass cracks." These stage directions indicate how firstly, Blanche is very insecure of her appearance, and as an aging Southern Belle, ~~she is~~ she still wants to keep her appearance young and attractive ~~to~~ in order for men to desire her. ~~For~~ However, her violent action of breaking the mirror is a way of Williams portraying this juxtaposition between Blanche's reality and illusion: Blanche tries to keep up her appearance ^{to attract} ~~to~~ a man who she can depend upon and ~~that~~ indirectly help to fulfill and maintain



her illusion. The fact Blanche ~~Bess~~ breaks the mirror indicates that despite her facade, she is aware of her real appearance and her silent actions are almost a cry for help - a cry for love. Therefore, in order for no one to see this side of her, she creates the fantasy of Shep in order to not only convince Stanley of her desirable desirability, but, to convince herself that she is wanted therefore, maintaining her facade/illusion. Linking to the rest of the play, ~~it is~~ clear Blanche is ~~very~~ has very clear ideas that to hide her looks are the only way for her to be able to attract and depend on a man: it is her dream and one which she lost at Belle Reve - the loss of a 'beautiful dream'. Blanche does this ~~as she~~ through Williams' motif of the paper lantern, & she asks Blanche "how are my looks?" as well as ~~convincing~~ asking Mitch to cover the light with the paper lantern. This mid-darkness allows Blanche to conceal any flaws she may have. ~~It is not only~~ However, in scene eleven, Stanley "seizes the paper lantern," ~~leaving~~ and extends it towards her" at which point Blanche "cries out" ~~The~~ Williams demonstrates realism as Stanley exposes her to ^{her own} ~~her~~ ~~face~~ insecurities by giving her the very object she used to cover herself



and maintain her fantasy. ~~The~~ By Stanley giving the lantern to Blanche, it is a metaphor to state Blanche's facade and illusion no longer exist and everyone knows the reality behind Blanche's nature. As Blanche knows her reality has been exposed, it destroys her hope of finding a man to depend on and like Belle Reve, she ~~& too~~, has lost her beautiful dream.

As the extract continues, ~~Bo~~ Williams uses pre-modified noun to describe Blanche's current situation as she begins to lie to Stanley about a man named Shep wanting her. Williams writes "an old admirer of mine". The adjective "old" suggests that despite a man supposedly denying her in her youth, he still finds her attractive thus wants to perhaps entertain her ~~in a~~ ^{in a} relationship. Williams intentionally uses this pre-modified noun for Blanche as a way for Blanche to excuse that she is somewhat desirable to men. However, from the sexual tension created by between Stanley and Stella early on like when she asks Stanley to help her ~~unbitten~~ ^{ask} or ~~to the~~ ^{ask} Stanley states "Your looks are okay". The sexual tension from previous scenes can be complimented in the idea that Stella wants to appear desirable to other men.



in order to make Stanley jealous. She even admits to Stella that she flirted with Stanley. Therefore, the sexual tension created by Blanche's opening of her false story about Shep helps to build her illusion of desirability whilst simultaneously building such an illusion to show how she needs to be involved with a man, therefore, ~~building~~ showing her dependence on men. However, by creating this lie, it shows how Stella wants to feel wanted by a man, to receive gratification that she is desirable. ~~This is linking into the rest~~ of the play it is her desire which leads to her death. This is evident where ~~Blanche~~ Blanche says "... take a streetcar named Desire ... then ... one called Cemeteries ... - Elysian Fields!" Elysian fields is a place of death for heroes and so it is Williams' way of showing how Blanche's desire ~~for~~ which is her real motive beneath her illusion ultimately leads to her death at Elysian fields which links to the death of her sanity at the Kowalski's as she is raped. Therefore, the ~~story~~ ^{fantasy} she creates with Shep ~~and~~ creates a sense of desire for a man: a man to depend on. However, it is the deceptive nature of Blanche as she tells this to Stanley which angers him and attacks her ~~weak~~ vulnerable self through



raping her, leading to the death of her sanity. It is her desires of men and dependency on men ~~is~~ which she tries to hide though is revealed as Stanley knows of her true nature.

Williams uses pauses to confuse Blanche's nerves as she fabricates a story that a man named Shep wants to be with her. ~~She~~ She states "Then - just now - this was - ~~was~~ - striking me..." The pauses indicate her lies and hesitation as she tries to convince Stanley not only that she has moved on from Mitch, but, that she is desirable as mentioned before. Furthermore, is Blanche's manner way of telling Stanley that he cannot break her and she is still going to fulfill her dream despite not being a typical Southern lady. This is ironic as it is Stanley who does in fact, break what is left of Blanche's sanity. The story of Shep creates fantasy for Blanche when Stanley knows based on her past and current nature, that this is a lie. Stanley knew Blanche was hiding her past previously as he unravelled the stories that she was a prostitute in the "Flamingo ~~Hot~~ Hotel", portraying her glows. As Stanley brings this reality to Blanche, it makes her feel exposed thus ~~is~~ less appealing and her reality of having a man



to call her own is tarnished: she will have no man to depend on therefore, remain isolated and lonely. ~~This desire of Shep~~ The fabricated story of Shep as a way for Blanche to ~~or~~ make herself seem desirable is similar to Stella's dependency on Stanley, mainly for sexual encounters. ~~Stella~~ After a big argument between Stella and Stanley where Stanley physically ~~h~~ ~~h~~ Stella, she still runs back to him as she remembers how he "had them lights going". ~~light is~~ Williams' use of euphemism for sex. Stanley reminds Stella of their lustful relationship therefore, wins her back round. Stella is also carrying this child therefore, depends on Stanley as a support but mainly for pleasure as this is what ignites their relationship. ~~Stella~~

Finally, Williams uses exclamatives to emphasise Blanche's desperation for dependence on a man. Stanley exclaims "Well, just so he's from somewhere!". The exclamative used by Williams creates a very sarcastic tone of voice as Stanley tries to be sarcastic in saying Blanche will almost settle for any man as she is that desperate. This exclamative is following on from Blanche's fantasy of Shep which she reveals to



Stanley as if it were true. "Somewhere" indicates a vague language and is Stanley's way of almost portraying that he is aware of Blanche's lie. As it is known, as ~~So~~ Southern Belles were very desirable young women who got married young and had families. However, Blanche's failed marriage after her husband committed suicide meant Blanche aged and now as a Southern lady, is no longer appealing. ^{Therefore,} ~~Instead,~~ ~~she is~~ as she describes ~~Shep~~ with such specific details, the illusion she creates for herself makes her believe there is a man she can depend on. However Stanley entices she is not the type of woman who has standards for her men and this is all in her facade. Stanley knows she would settle for anyone because this is what she did whilst she was at the "Flamingo Hotel". ~~Her~~ At the hotel, she would have discrete, sexual encounters from any man, anywhere, hence ^{Williams} ~~Stanley's use~~ use of "somewhere!". As long as it is a man, Blanche is able to fulfill her needs and have someone to rely and depend on. This can be interpreted as ~~the~~ Stanley mimicking Blanche's view of Stanley. Stanley is aware (continued on extra paper)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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SECTION B

3 of Blanches opinion that he is "common", "vulgar" and ~~an~~ an "ape" ^{as she speaks to Stella} through Williams' extended metaphor. Therefore, ~~it~~ Stanley shows ~~hypo~~ the hypocrisy of Blanche as Stanley urges Blanche will settle for any man, however, Blanche had a lot to critique about Stanley. ~~Stan~~ This is Williams' way of showing how Stanley believes that as Blanche is so false in her character, he now has the superior status over her and therefore, is Stanley's way of stating perhaps Blanche is jealous that Stella has a man to depend on that she is looking for simply anyone to do the same for her in order to feel fulfilled and to receive her immediate gratification of being desired.

Overall, Williams uses several techniques to emphasise how the character of Blanche is an aging Southern lady with flaws ~~too~~ who creates an a fantasy with a man named Shep in order to believe there is a man out there she can depend on: he shows Stanley, at this point, that he cannot break her. Moreover, also mentioned is Stella's dependence upon Stanley as she runs ~~back~~ back to him despite ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ^{the} violence, showing how she

she depends upon Stanley to make of her feel fulfilled sexually but also depends on him as the ~~father~~ soon-to-be father of their unborn child. The dependence of women in the play is Williams' way of showing how also, ~~after~~ living in post-American Civil War society, as everything had broken apart, people had to adapt and change ~~with~~ and depend on others to get by and live with ~~sanity~~ ^{and needs} and fulfillment. ~~Third~~ These circumstances are embodied in Blanche and is demonstrated in Stella as she has found Stanley.