

Prof. Chiang-Schultheiss
English 102: Intro to Literature: Drama Unit
Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*

1. In scenes 1 and 2, Williams draws the characters of Amanda and Laura respectively. What similarities and contrasts is the playwright deliberately wanting his audience to see in these two women?

<u>Amanda</u>	<u>Laura</u>
1. Overwhelmingly loud	1. Overwhelmingly shy
2. Blind to her own cruelties	2. Her shyness and her defect have incapacitated her completely
3. ESCAPES to the glory of her past	3. ESCAPES to her glass menagerie and to her father's old records
4.	4.
5.	5.

2. Discuss the significance of Amanda's following statement in scene 1: "What is there left but dependency all our lives?" (line 32)
3. How would you describe and explain the essential conflict between Tom and Amanda?
4. What symbolic readings can you make of the broken unicorn's horn that Laura gives to Jim, a key scene in the play?
5. Tom often speaks in poetic language, allowing one line to reveal many different and deeper meanings. First, why does Williams have Tom speak poetically? And second, explain the significance of the following lines:
- "Blow out your candles, Laura..."
 - "for nowadays the world is lit by lightning"

6. One of the dominant themes in Williams' play is about feeling trapped Vs. escaping. What elements in the play does Williams use to dramatize this point and in what ways are these characters trapped? Identify at least one for each character.

Escape	Entrapment
<u>Amanda</u>	<u>Amanda</u>
<u>Laura</u>	<u>Laura</u>
<u>Tom</u>	<u>Tom</u>

7. Catalog as many **symbols** you can identify & explain their significance. Start with here:

A. Laura's glass collection	
B. Tom's cigarettes	
C.	
D.	
E.	

8. What symbolic interpretations can you make of the broken unicorn's horn that Laura gives to Jim, a key scene in the play?