

Worksheet 5 – Scene Four

Review: Lecture 4

In the last lecture of the unit, Prof McCrae explored the relationships established during the poker game in Scene Three.

- ✓ How is Mitch introduced as a character? How does he contrast with Stanley?

Recall: Lecture 5

Complete this task after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember about Scene Four. You can also take the “Module Quiz” online.

1. What expression is on Stella’s face at the start of Scene 4?
a) Serene c) Miserable
b) Anxious d) Excited
2. What does Blanche say Shep Huntleigh could do for her?
a) Marry her c) Set her up with work
b) Beat up Stanley d) Take her on holiday

Analysis

3. During this scene key contrasts emerge between Stella and Blanche as characters.

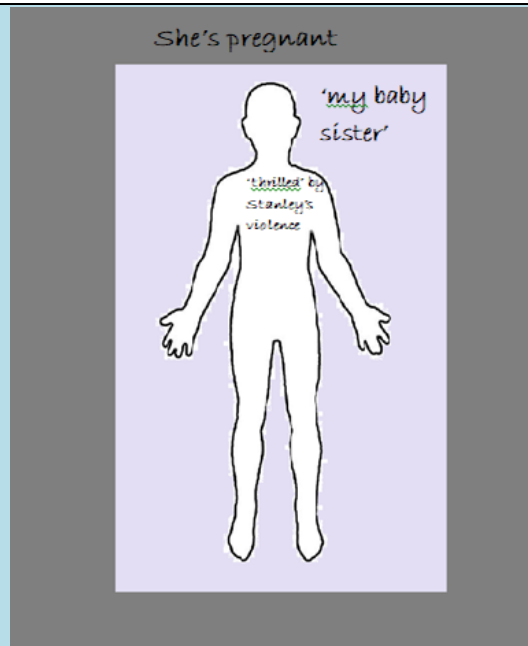
Use the template below to draw character profiles for Stella and Blanche on separate sheets of paper:

- ✓ In the outer box: write key facts you know about Stella/ Blanche.
- ✓ In the inner box: collect words that other characters use to describe Stella/ Blanche.
- ✓ Inside the figure: collect phrases Blanche/ Stella say themselves that reveal their personality.

Here is an example started for Stella’s character:

4. Throughout the play, for sound effects, sound of blues and In Scene Four, sounds in the stage

It is early the
There is a confusion
choral chant. Stella
bedroom. Her face
morning sunlight.
belly, rounding
maternity.



Williams includes directions including street noise and the jazz music playing from a bar. Williams describes these directions as a 'choral chant':

following morning.
of street cries like a
is lying down in the
is serene in the early
One hand rests on her
slightly with new

- a) Research the role of the chorus in Ancient Greek tragedies. A useful starting point for online research would be this video by the National Theatre on the chorus and its role: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIXi8LfKv-0&t=7s>
- b) Based on your research, note down three ways in which street sounds might act as a tragic chorus in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Evaluation

5. Prof McRae states that one interpretation of the play is that it is 'a tragedy of unfulfilled desire'. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Use your notes from the lectures so far to write an essay plan responding to this question.

You might include:

- ✓ Literary context (e.g. references to the Ancient Greek chorus).
- ✓ Textual details from the play.
- ✓ Discussion of characterisation.
- ✓ Analysis of the dramatic effect of stage directions.

Glossary

- **Bestial** – (adj.) of or like an animal.
- **Choral** – (adj.) relating to the qualities of a chorus; music to be performed by an ensemble of voices.
- **Confederate** – (adj.) belonging to, supporting, or relating to the Confederacy in the American Civil War.
- **Polack** – (n.) offensive term for someone of Polish decent.