



## Questions/Study Guide for *The Glass Menagerie*

Type or handwrite (neatly!) your answers to the following questions. A link to the script is available on my website: [MrsKissire.weebly.com](http://MrsKissire.weebly.com) . Use it to help you respond to these prompts.

### Scene 1 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):

1. Write a character portrait for each of the three characters: Tom, Amanda, and Laura.
  - Follow correct paragraph style, with a strong and specific topic sentence.
  - Use a sympathetic, understanding tone for each character, while, at the same time, expressing their faults to the reader.
  - Each character should be described in 125-175 words.
  - Use only the information provided in Scene 1 to outline their characters.
2. The play has unusual qualities, with Tom, for example, addressing the audience directly. What is your personal reaction to the playwright's choice of narration? Answer in a short, 100 word paragraph.
3. Outline one conflict, in detail, and comment on its importance to the scene. Use a paragraph of about 175 words. Refer to one conflict, only, in your work.
4. Historical setting is important to the play. Comment briefly, in a short answer of 50 to 75 words on how setting is important to the characters introduced in Scene 1.

### Scene 2 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):

1. In Scene 1, Tom says that he will give the audience "truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion." In Scene 2, Amanda and Laura are victims of their own illusions. In a paragraph of about 150 words, discuss their respective self-deceptions. How do these, as Tom says, illustrate a "truth" about life?
2. The scene introduces two important symbols to the play: the blue roses and the glass menagerie. How well do these symbols work for you? Explain your personal response to these two symbols in a paragraph of about 150 words.
3. Comment, in a paragraph of 100 words, on an irony in the scene. How does this irony help the playwright develop his ideas?



### **Scene 3 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):**

1. An intense argument develops between Amanda and Tom in this scene. To what extent does each character have justifiable grievances? Write a separate paragraph of approximately 175 words for each character.
2. At the beginning of the scene, Amanda is speaking to Ida Scott on the telephone. Examine the details of her speech. In a brief paragraph of about 75 words, explain why this speech was included in the scene.
3. Verbal irony is used in Tom's last speech of the scene. This speech contains elements of humor as well as bitterness. In a paragraph of about 125 words, agree or disagree with this statement.
4. The symbol of the glass menagerie continues in this scene. Comment on its significance in a paragraph of about 100 words.

### **Scene 4 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):**

1. Consider Amanda's character development in this scene. Explain how her character is consistent (or inconsistent) with previous scenes. Be specific and limit your paragraph to about 150 words.
2. Choose one important symbol in this scene. Discuss why the symbol is appropriate to the character it is associated with. Your paragraph should be about 125 words.
3. Give two themes that are suggested in this scene. For each theme statement, provide supporting details. Write as a short answer instead of a paragraph.
4. Outline an unresolved conflict in this scene. In a paragraph of 150 words, discuss why the conflict is unresolved.
5. The scene ends with Amanda making a telephone call to sell magazine subscriptions. Briefly explain why the scene ends this way. Answer in a brief paragraph of about 75 words.



### **Scene 5 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):**

1. In this scene, the tragedy of Guernica is mentioned as a contrast to the events taking place at the Paradise Dance Hall. What is the historical significance of Guernica? Why does Tom mention this at this point in the play, in your opinion? Write a paragraph of about 150 words.
2. Amanda deceives herself in this scene. Write a paragraph of about 150 words that outlines this deception.

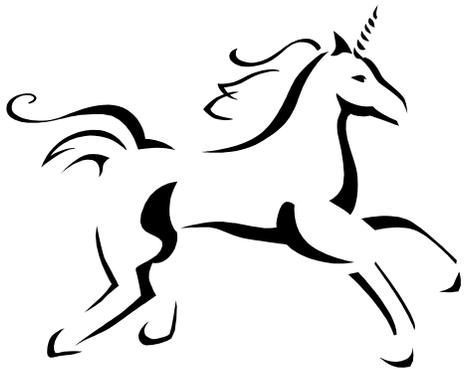
3. Tom makes Amanda happy by finally inviting a gentleman caller. How do you judge his action? Write a paragraph of about 150 words to explain your personal reaction.

### **Scene 6 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):**

1. Early in this scene, Laura is compared to "a piece of translucent glass touched by light, given a momentary radiance, not actual, not lasting." In a paragraph of about 125 words, explain why Laura is described this way.
2. Identify one example of dramatic irony in this scene. Why is this irony important to the development of the play? Answer in a paragraph of about 100 words.
3. At the beginning of Scene 1, Tom narrates that Jim O'Connor "is the most realistic character in the play." According to what we learn about Jim in Scene 6, do you think he is realistic? Are his dreams more (or less) realistic than Tom's? Write a paragraph of about 150 words.
4. In a paragraph of 150 words, comment on Amanda's honesty in this scene.

### **Scene 7 (Due \_\_\_\_\_):**

1. Write a short paragraph where you criticize Jim's behavior toward Laura in this scene. (150 words)
2. The unicorn is a potent symbol in this scene. Defend this statement by outlining Williams's use of the unicorn and examining its varied meanings. (150 words)
3. In Scene 7 the illusions of the play are finally shattered. Explain, using relevant examples, how this is shown. (150 words)
4. What is your personal reaction and comment on Tom's final speech? Give a theme statement as part of your answer, supported by specific details. (150 words)



*Derived from <http://palc.sd40.bc.ca/palc/credit/Drama/glassmscene1.htm>*