Scene 5

In this scene, Stanley drops hints to Blanche that he knows about her past; Steve and Eunice show that their marriage is as stormy as Stanley and Stella’s; Blanche is tempted to seduce a young man.

Tip

When completing the activities below (and any other exchanges between characters in the play) try to use discourse analysis techniques to assess how the text works as dialogue in a conversation, and literary and linguistic terminology to help evaluate the text as a piece of literature.

Activity 1

- Why might Williams have chosen to open this scene in this way?
- Compare the bird imagery of Blanche’s first speech with imagery in the stage directions which introduce her in Scene 1.

Steve and Eunice’s argument is witnessed by Stanley and Stella.

- Find examples of how their conflict is presented ...
- ... and their reunion later in the scene.
- How does this argument/reunion mirror Stanley and Stella’s in Scene 3?

Activity 2

- Find examples to show Stanley’s sarcastic and cynical attitude towards Blanche.
- Any links to their exchange in Scene 2?

Activity 3

- Find examples of how Blanche manipulates Stella’s responses to her situation regarding her:
  a) loss of Belle Reve and her reputation
  b) appearance/attractiveness
  c) domineering relationship with Stella.
- How does Stanley’s entrance change the tone of the scene?

Activity 4

- Find evidence of how Blanche dominates the conversation with the young man.
- Do you notice any links to her previous life? (E.g. Scene 1 – school)