Blanche and Mitch return from an evening out together but both appear disappointed. Blanche complains about Stanley’s treatment of her and she recounts Allan’s death to Mitch.

Activity 1

- Identify the ways in which Blanche controls the agenda and conversation with Mitch up to ‘I guess it is just that I have – old-fashioned ideals!’

You might find it useful to make notes on:

- discourse features e.g. who speaks most, asks questions and gives commands
- stage directions
- euphemisms and innuendo
- theatricality
- compliments
- silence.

Activity 2

- In the next section of the scene, (up to Mitch: ‘To be lonely?’) find evidence of Blanche’s defensiveness regarding her reputation and her hostility towards Stanley, e.g. question types, stage directions, pauses etc.
- How is Mitch’s reaction presented? E.g. non-adjacency pairs, changing agenda

Activity 3

- Find examples of symbolism in the visual and sound effects that Williams uses as Blanche tells Mitch the story of her husband’s death, from ‘I loved someone, too, and the person I loved I lost.’ to the end of the scene.
- What does Williams’ choice of language and discourse effects for Blanche (in her long turn beginning ‘He was a boy, just a boy,’), tell you about her feelings for her husband, and for herself?
- If there are any terms you don’t understand, look up their meaning in a dictionary or book/online glossary of literary terms.