Perspectives on the past
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Scene 7: Blanche’s background

As the audience, we have no ‘unbiased’ account of Blanche’s life before the play. The important aspect of this is not what the ‘truth’ is but why we are given differing or ambiguous information. There are several reasons for this:

- we learn more about Stanley and Blanche from their respective perspectives
- it allows the audience to formulate their own opinion
- it avoids turning Blanche into a caricature and adds to the ‘realism’.

Can you think of any other reasons?

Write down a narrative of Blanche’s life - one from her perspective and one from Stanley’s. Then think about where the contrasts lie and what these contrasts tell us about each character.

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<th>Blanche’s</th>
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