**Streetcar Named Desire**

**Questions for a Feminist Reading**

1. What stereotypes of women are present in the play? Are female characters oversimplified? Weak? Foolish? Naïve? Give examples to support your answers.
2. Consider the roles of Blanche and Stella in the action of the work. Are they supportive or independent? Powerless or strong? Subservient or in control? Cite examples.
3. If the female characters have power, what kind is it? Economic, social, political, psychological?
4. Consider how the female and male characters interact with each other. What does this imply about women’s’ roles and position in the mid-20th century?
5. Do any of the work’s themes touch upon ideas that could be considered a feminist issue?
6. How has the 60 years between the initial production of the play and now changed for women in terms of how they are judged and portrayed in drama and film productions?

**Questions for a Psychoanalytic Reading**

1. What are the traits of the two central characters? How does Williams reveal those traits?
2. What do you learn about characters from the way other characters interact with them?
3. How does Blanche view herself? Stanley? Stella?
4. Is there any discrepancy between a character’s view of him or herself and other characters’ reactions, the author’s portrayal and/or reader inference?
5. What types of images are used in conjunction with Blanche, Stella and Stanley? What do they symbolize?
6. Are there any inner conflicts within the character? How are these conflicts revealed? How are they dealt with? Resolved?
7. What is the conflict between the id and the ego of the principal characters?
8. Examine Stanley Kowalski as an expression of unchecked id.