

Scene X

Vocabulary

amiably – in a friendly or agreeable manner
destitute – very poor
geyser – a fountain of liquid
grotesque – ugly; distorted; monstrous
implored – begged
inert – still, motionless; lifeless
spectral – ghostly
transitory – fleeting, temporary

1. As this scene opens, what illusion is Blanche creating?

2. Whom does Blanche claim to have received a telegram from, and what does she claim it says?

3. What does Blanche say she can offer someone like Shep?

4. What story does Blanche invent about Mitch? What does she say she cannot forgive? What is Stanley's reaction to the story? How does he catch her in the lie?

5. To Blanche's shock and distress, Stanley enters the bedroom and stalks her in a threatening manner. How does Williams use shadow, light, and sound to add to the drama and suspense of the scene?

6. What is happening out on the sidewalk while Stanley is stalking Blanche around the bedroom? What is the symbolic significance of the drama that is taking place outside?

7. Summarize the play's climax, which occurs in the last few moments of this scene. Although Williams does not show the actual rape of Blanche, it is clearly implied. What evidence suggests this conclusion?

8. What motivates Stanley's sexual attack on Blanche?
