

Scene XI

Vocabulary

agonizingly – in a painful or distressing manner
callous – hard-hearted, unfeeling
colloquy – a discussion
divested – stripped; deprived
gravity – seriousness
perplexity – confusion
prodigiously – hugely, immensely
quinine – a medicine used to treat malaria
reverberated – echoed
sinister – threatening; scary
sotto voce – [*Italian*] in soft or hushed tones
voluptuously – in a sexy or seductive manner

1. How has Stanley's rape affected Blanche?

2. Why does Stella refuse to believe that Stanley attacked Blanche? What advice does Eunice give Stella?

3. Where is Blanche going? Where does she think she is going?

4. How does Mitch seem to feel about what is going on? How does Stanley appear to feel? Give examples from the text to support your answers.

5. Identify at least three examples from this scene that reference the idea of cleanliness. What is significant about this concept in light of Stanley's rape of Blanche?

6. According to Blanche, how will she die? How is this connected with the ideas of purity, cleanliness, and innocence?

7. When Blanche realizes that the doctor is not Shep Huntleigh, she steps back into the apartment and begins making her way into the bedroom. What does Stanley do at this point? How does his action bring the traumatic rape back to Blanche's mind? How does Williams illustrate this to the audience?

8. How does Stella react when Stanley and the nurse close in on Blanche? How does Eunice try to comfort Stella?

9. When the doctor removes his hat and offers Blanche his arm, what effect does this have on Blanche? Why?

10. As the doctor leads Blanche away, she says to him, "Whoever you are—I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." What is ironic about this statement?

11. Briefly summarize the final few moments of the play, after Blanche is led away. What happens between Stella and Stanley?

12. The play ends with Stanley putting his hand inside Stella's blouse and her not objecting. What does this type of ending suggest?
