

Scene III

Vocabulary

diffidently – shyly, timidly
dissonant – jarring; harsh
feigned – artificial; not real or sincere
gallantry – good manners; gentlemanly behavior
indolently – lazily
kibitz – to watch and make comments on
lurid – strikingly bright and garish
nocturnal – of the night
portieres – curtains that are hung across a doorway
reverence – respect
sanctuary – a shelter; a safe place
whelp – a young dog

1. How would you describe the general mood of the poker game? What is Stanley's demeanor during the game?

2. Why does Mitch say he has to leave?

3. Why is Blanche interested in Mitch? How does Mitch seem to feel about her?

4. During the scene in which Mitch shows Blanche the inscription on his cigarette case, Williams references a sonnet by a poet that the audience will most likely recognize. What is the inscription on the cigarette case? Who is the poet? What literary term does this passage demonstrate?

5. What is significant for Mitch about the cigarette case and its inscription? In light of this information, what do Mitch and Blanche have in common?
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6. How does Stanley show his domination over Stella and Blanche in the first half of this scene?
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7. What lie about herself and Stella does Blanche tell Mitch? Why?
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8. Why does Blanche ask Mitch to hang the paper lantern?
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9. What causes Stanley to explode? Describe what he does to Stella in the kitchen. How does Williams present the scene in the kitchen?
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10. Why does Stanley react so violently in the scene?
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11. Describe the scene in which Stanley stands on the pavement bellowing for Stella. What simile does Williams use in the stage notes to describe Stanley and his behavior?
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12. What does Eunice say that suggests Stanley has hit Stella before?

13. Describe Stanley and Stella's reunion. Why do you think she comes downstairs to him?

14. Throughout this scene, Stanley is compared several times to an animal. Identify at least three instances of this comparison.

15. How have your perceptions of Stanley changed after reading this scene? Do you find it harder or easier to sympathize with him, in comparison to the previous two scenes?
