

Scene VII

Vocabulary

blithely – in a merry or carefree way
contemptible – disgraceful, despicable
contrapuntally – relating to two or more voices speaking at the same time
ordinance – a rule or law
saccharine – overly sweet

1. As the scene begins, Blanche is taking yet another one of her frequent baths. Why does she bathe so much? What seems to be symbolic about her bathing?

2. Stanley has found out several things about Blanche. What is “Lie Number One,” according to him?

3. What is “Lie Number Two”? How does this information fit with Blanche’s kissing the young man who had come to the door? What might these incidents explain about Blanche?

4. How does Stella react to what Stanley tells her about Blanche? Do you think Stella is correct in her opinion about the stories?

5. How does the audience know that Mitch will probably not be coming to Blanche's birthday party? How does Stella feel about this?

6. What is significant about the song Blanche is singing in the tub? What is the song about? What effect does Williams achieve by juxtaposing it with Stanley's harsh words?

7. Briefly describe the end of the scene, when Blanche finally emerges from her bath. How does Williams imbue the scene with dramatic irony? What does the audience know that Blanche does not?
