

Scene IX

Vocabulary

malarkey – nonsense

recriminations – accusations, charges

uncavalier – inconsiderate, ungentlemanly

1. The Varsouviana has become a major motif. What is the significance of the song? What does it represent for Blanche?

2. Why does Mitch refuse Stanley's liquor?

3. Why does Mitch want to see Blanche in the light? What has the light come to represent?

4. What might be the symbolic significance of Mitch ripping the paper lantern off the light bulb? What is his reaction after seeing Blanche in the light? What bothers him most?

5. Blanche says that she does not want realism; she wants magic. She wants things not the way they are but the way they ought to be. What does this imply about her use of deceptions and her view of life?

6. What explanation does Blanche give for her promiscuity?

7. As Blanche and Mitch converse, a Mexican woman is heard out in the street. What is she selling? What is significant about the scene?

8. Blanche concludes that death is the opposite of desire. What does she mean?

9. In what way is Blanche a little different in this scene? How might the audience sympathize with her?

10. What does Mitch tell Blanche at the end of the scene? What is her reaction?
